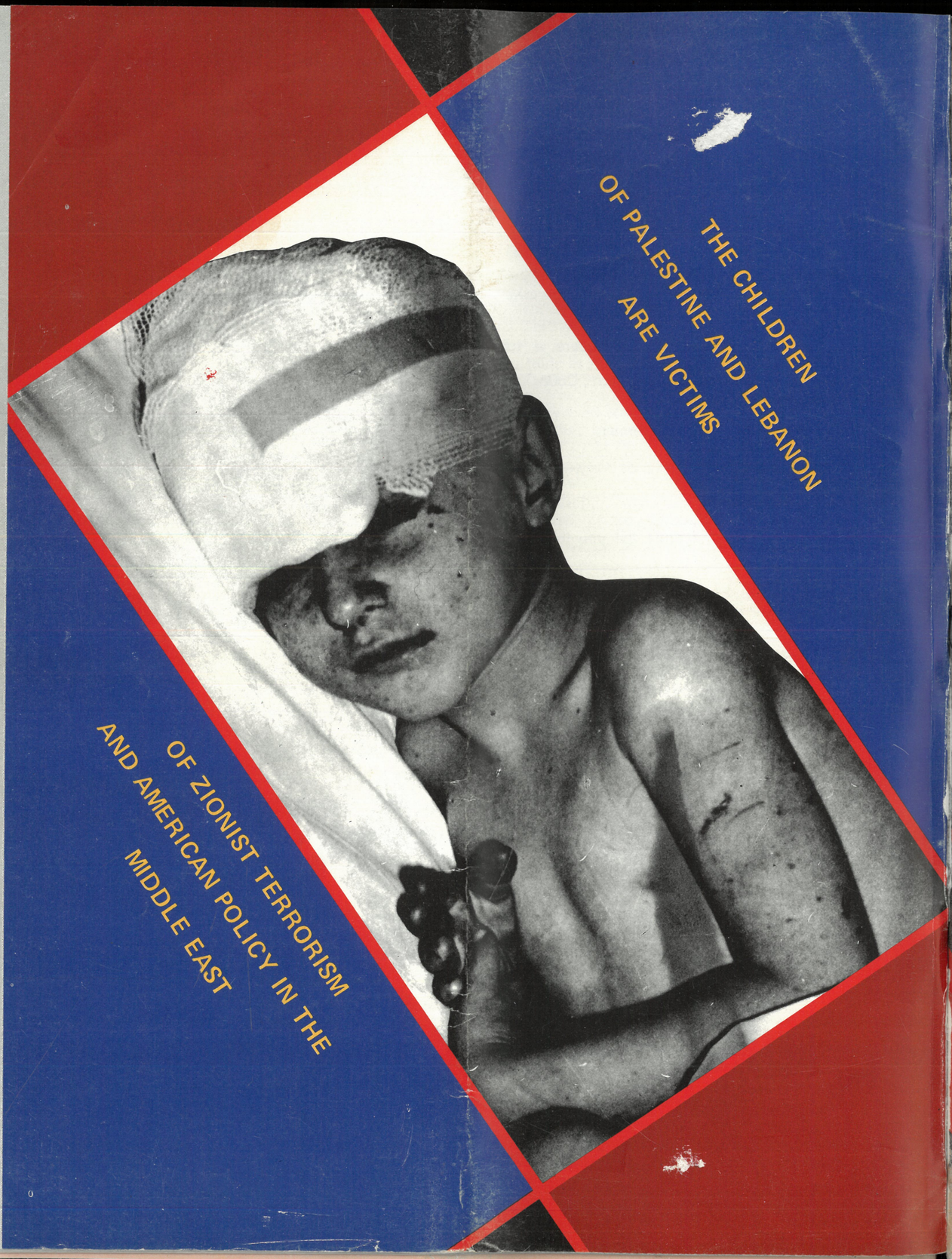

THE CHILDREN OF PALESTINE AND LEBANON ARE VICTIMS

OF ZIONIST TERRORISM AND AMERICAN POLICY IN THE MIDDLE EAST

MAR 2 1982

P.L.O. information bulletin

1-15 September 1981
Vol. 7, No. 15

Palestine

The Story of Fatima al-Halabi

A SYMBOL OF HOPE BORN FROM DESTRUCTION

TO OUR READERS

Solidarity is an important weapon for helping the peoples of the world overcome oppression and injustice. The support and solidarity which the Palestinian people receive helps us to continue our just struggle for our just cause. We are grateful for the solidarity and support we get, but although we have many friends around the world, our enemies are still strong and formidable. They are better armed, better equipped, and much wealthier than we.

Nevertheless, though we may possess limited means, our determination and willingness to sacrifice is unlimited. The world forces of liberation, of which we are proud to be a part, are the emerging forces, and it is to us that the future belongs. The forces of oppression have had their day, and shall be consigned to the dustbin of history.

We thank all of our friends throughout the world for the letters of support and encouragement you have sent to us. Surely, we and other liberation movements will continue on the road to victory.

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Palestine

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EDITORIAL

"STRATEGIC ALLIANCE" FOR WAR AND DISASTER

Following his talks with President Reagan, Israeli Prime Minister Begin, speaking before the press in Washington on September 13, buoyantly announced that he and Reagan had agreed on a "strategic cooperation", which would be a "turning-point" in the relations between the two countries. According to various reports the United States and Israel agreed among others on:

— Intensified exchange of sophisticated military intelligence, with the U.S. to provide information from its spy satellites and planes.

— Stockpiling equipment for U.S. military intervention forces. According to U.S. Secretary of State Haig, this would "start" with the storage of "medical" supplies for the U.S. Rapid Deployment Forces.

— Israeli logistic support and possible air cover for U.S. forces operating in the Middle East and the Mediterranean. Begin explicitly offered the United States air and naval bases in occupied Palestine. Haig himself announced the first joint U.S.-Israeli naval exercises for as soon as next January.

On the political level, both sides reportedly agreed to consult before undertaking any action in the area which might "surprise" the other.

While Begin was still in the U.S., latest reports from Tel Aviv say that the Israeli militarists are now preparing for a new large-scale aggression against Lebanon and the PLO. According to a detailed plan set up under the direction of the new Israeli war minister Sharon, Israel intends to occupy the entire southern quarter of Lebanon up to Zahrani in the wake of a wave of devastating air, land and sea strikes. This operation is thought to prepare the ground for a new "peace" shuttle of the U.S. Middle East envoy Habib, whereby Israel would then offer its withdrawal in exchange for the liquidation of the Joint Lebanese and Palestinian Forces in the south. The strategic aim should be the destruction or emasculation of the PLO, followed by the setting up of a sort of Bantustan — like subdued presence of Palestinian ghettos in Lebanon; this is to be completed, according to the Zionist strategists, by the "final" subjugation of the occupied West Bank of Palestine including Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip.

Thus the "turning-point" in the U.S.-Israeli "strategic alliance" against alleged "external threats from the Soviet Union and from Soviet proxies" (to quote Haig) signalises nothing but the green light for more Israeli military adventurism and aggression; for waves of more blood amongst the Palestinian and all Arab people. It will lead to even more destablisation, military tension and dangerous confrontation involving the Soviet Union in the entire area. It is also yet another brazen slap in the face of all Arab regimes collaborating with the United States and all those forces inside and outside the Arab world still nurturing the illusion, as if the U.S. was ready, or even sincerely interested, to work for a just and comprehensive peace in the area and to wield anything but more aggression from its Israeli ally.

Like their racist companions in South Africa, the Israeli militarists believe that by military aggression, mass terror and death they can break the political deadlocks in which they are stuck. And as the United States has encouraged South Africa to devastate Angola in an attempt to bring SWAPO to its knees and blackmail the Angolan national government, the Reagan administration now openly shares the Israeli plots for extending the devastation of Lebanon in order to blackmail Lebanon and Syria and to eliminate the PLO.

The U.S. governments have not learnt from their imperialist debacles. As they once in vain tried to "Cambodianise" their Vietnamese disaster, they now try to "Lebanise" the unsolved Palestine problem. They still believe, together with their henchmen in Tel Aviv and Pretoria, that they could roll over people, and that by exporting and expanding aggression in Central America, Southern Africa, the Middle East, South Asia and recently even Europe, they could extinguish the urgent problems facing the world and avoid reasonable and global political solutions.

But neither the Palestinian people nor all the peoples struggling for an end to occupation and repression, for national independence, and a world of equal and just cooperation and respect amongst all people, will wither away. Nor will their armed resistance. At least not for less than a conflagration which will eventually engulf the entire globe. It looks, as if the "tough" men in the White House and their "strategic allies" like Begin are on the straight road towards this.

PALESTINE CHRONOLOGY

August 25: **Fateh Central Committee member Abu Jihad met in Tripoli with Maj. Abdel Salam Jalloud.** The three hour meeting dealt with the situation on Arab and international levels.

Abu Jihad later met with the Libyan Chief-of-Staff Brig. Abu Bakr Yunis with whom he discussed last month's war between the Israeli forces and the Palestinian Revolution and the continuing Israeli acts of aggression against the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples.

Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the PLO, accompanied by Khalid al-Fahoum, President of the Palestine National Congress, and several members of the PLO Executive Committee, met in Damascus with Libyan President Col. Mu'ammar Qadhafi.
A delegation from the Lebanese National Movement including Muhsin Ibrahim, Assem Qanso, George Hawi, Samir Sabbagh, and Muhsin Dalloul later joined the meeting.

Chairman Arafat received the Saudi Ambassador in Beirut, Gen. Ali al-Sha'er. The Ambassador handed Arafat two messages from King Khalid Ibn Abdel Aziz and Crown Prince Fahd Ibn Abdel Aziz concerning the latest developments in the Arab region in the light of the brutal Israeli acts of aggression against Palestinian and Lebanese people. The messages also confirmed Saudi support for the just struggle of the Palestinian people under PLO leadership.

Yasser Arafat received a delegation of American Congressional aides who were visiting the Palestinian Revolution. During the meeting, Arafat pointed out the dangers resulting from the Israeli use of American offensive weapons against the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples and the aggressive policies of the American Administration and the racist Israeli authorities in south Lebanon. The delegation condemned the massacres committed against innocent civilians and assured that they will transmit their findings to American public opinion.

August 27: **Palestine took part in the first Non-Aligned Conference for Physical Fitness and Athletics held in Tripoli between 23 and 26 August.** During the Conference, which was attended by more than sixty countries, it was unanimously agreed to accept Palestine as a full and active member on equal terms with other Non-Aligned members in all the movement's athletic activities.

August 28: **Chairman Arafat received a message from President Abdo Diouf of Senegal in reply to Arafat's earlier message about developments in the region and the latest Israeli attacks on the Palestinian Revolution and Lebanon.**
The Senegalese leader condemned the Israeli attacks and expressed full support for the Palestinian people in their struggle against Zionism and for the creation of an independent state under the leadership of the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Arafat received a cable from Kim Il Sung, President of he People's Democratic Republic of Korea. The cable expressed full support for the Palestinian people in their struggle against imperialism and Zionism and for the realisation of their national rights.

Arafat headed a meeting of the Higher Military Council of the Palestinian Revolution and the Lebanese-Palestinian Joint Forces. The meeting dealt with the general situation, in particular in south Lebanon. The necessary precautions to be taken in the light of the Israeli military concentrations there were discussed.

August 29: **Chairman Arafat met with the Foreign Minister of Afghanistan, Shah Muhammad Dhost, who handed him a message from President Babrak Karmal concerning the latest developments in the region** and expressing Afghanistan's official and popular support for the just struggle of the Palestinian people against the dangerous Zionist-imperialist campaign.
During the meeting, current developments on Arab and international levels were discussed.

August 30: **Yasser Arafat received the Soviet Ambassador in Beirut, Alexander Soldatov, in the presence of Farouk Kaddoumi, head of the PLO Political Department.** The meeting dealt with the developments in the region and the preparations for Arafat's forthcoming visit to Moscow.
During the meeting, Arafat handed the Ambassador a message to the Soviet leadership.

August 31: **Fateh Central Committee member Abu Iyad met with the Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba, in the presence of Prime Minister Muhammad al-Mazali.**
The meeting dealt with current developments in the Arab situation, in particular the situation in south Lebanon in the aftermath of the sixth Palestinian-Israeli war. Abu Iyad described the meeting as positive, and there was agreement on all issues discussed.

Fateh Central Committee member Abu Jihad met with Algerian President Chadli Ben Jedid, in the presence of Hajj Ismail, Commander of the Joint Forces in south Lebanon, Abu Hassan, the PLO Representative in Algeria, and Col. Suleiman Hoffman, FLN Central Committee member and Foreign Relations Director.
The two-hour meeting centred on the latest developments on the Palestinian, Arab and international levels, on various issues of joint concern, and the Sixth Palestinian-Israeli war. During the meeting, the Algerian President confirmed his country's full support for the Palestinian Revolution at all levels.

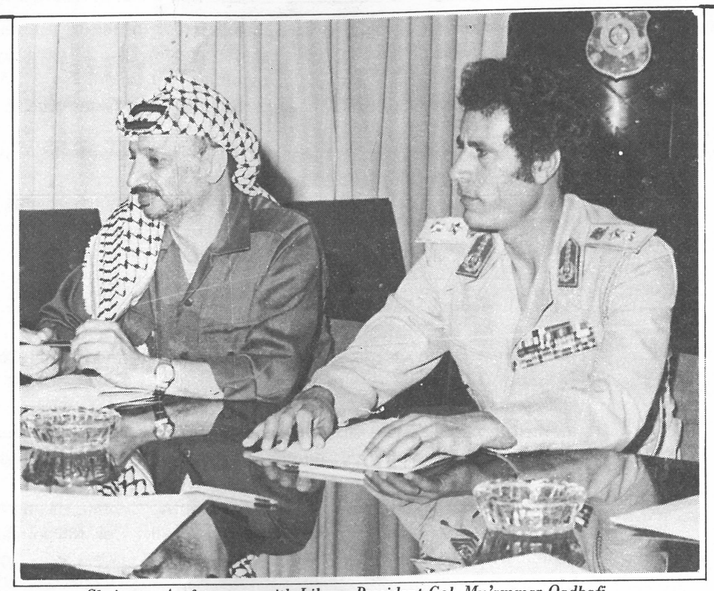
Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and Commander-in-Chief of the forces of the Palestinian Revolution, met with the Libyan leader Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhafi at the Libyan Government headquarters. After an hour's meeting, the two leaders were joined by other Libyan and Palestinian officials.
The enlarged meeting, which dealt with the situation in the Middle East and the continuing imperialist-Zionist acts of aggression against the Arab nation, was attended on the Palestinian side by the PLO Political Department Head Farouk Kaddoumi, PLO Executive Committee members Abu Maher al-Yamani, Muhammad Zuhdi al-Nashashibi and Yasser Abed Rabbo, PNC President Khalid al-Fahoum, DFLP Secretary-General Nayef Hawatmeh, PPSF Secretary-General Samir Ghosheh and the PLO Representative in Tripoli, Abu Tariq.
Representing the Libyan side were Brig. Abu Bakr Yunis, Ali Abdel Salam al-Tureiki, al Khuweildi al-Hamidi and Mustafa al-Kharroubi.
During the meeting, Arafat congratulated Col. Qadhafi on the occasion of the 12th. anniversary of the Libyan Revolution.

September 1: **Chairman Arafat attended celebrations marking the 12th anniversary of the Libyan Revolution of September 1st 1969 which overthrew the monarchy.**

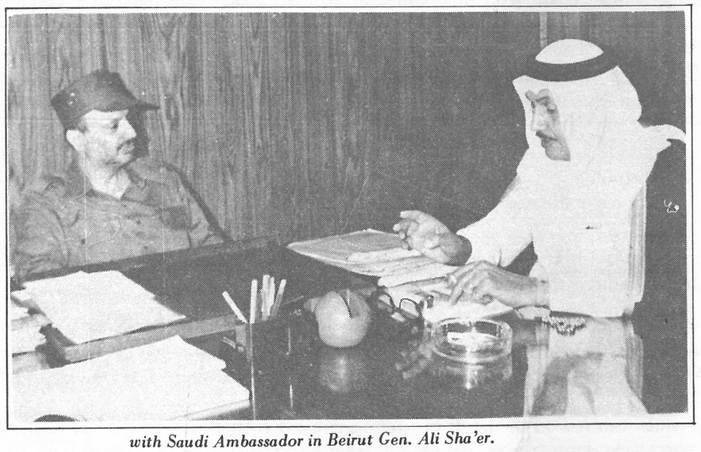
Fateh Central Committee Member Abu Jihad met with King Hassan II of Morocco, in the presence of Col. Hajj Ismail, Commander of the Joint Forces in south Lebanon, Abu Marwan, the PLO Representative in Morocco, Ahmad al-Alawi, the Moroccan Minister of State for Tourism, and Ahmad Ben Sawda, Adviser to the Moroccan King.
During the meeting, which centred on the latest developments of the Palestine cause, in particular the sixth Palestinian-Israeli war, King Hassan spoke about the international reactions to the victory achieved by the Joint Forces and warned against the dangers along the path of the Palestinian Revolution, which has proved its worth.
King Hassan also confirmed his country's full support for the Palestinian Revolution in the attainment of its goals, including the rights of return, self-determination and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

September 6: **Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and Commander-in-Chief of the forces of the Palestinian Revolution, met with Syrian Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Abdel Halim Khaddam, in the presence of Brig. Gen. Hikmat al-Shihabi and Fateh Central Committee members Abu Jihad, Abu Maher, Abu al-Hol and Abu al-Walid.**
The meeting dealt with current developments on the local, Arab and international levels, in particular the situation in south Lebanon and the Israeli military concentrations there. The meeting also dealt with bilateral relations and the means to reinforce them in confronting the Zionist-imperialist conspiracies against Syria, the Palestinian Revolution and the Arab region as a whole. There was agreement on the issues discussed, and the three hour-long meeting was described as positive, fruitful and fraternal.

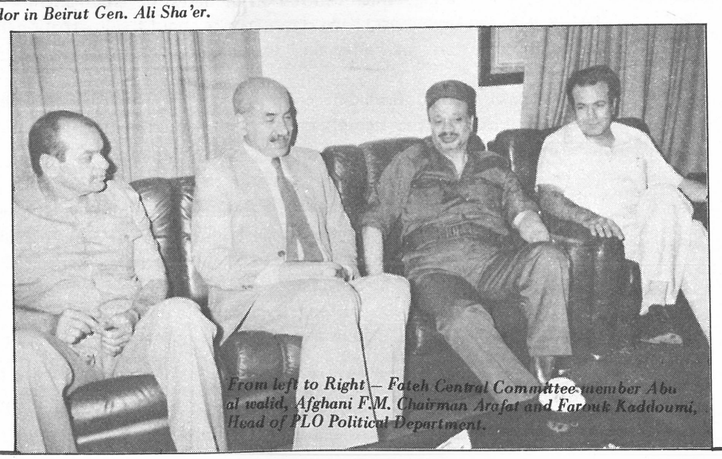
EVENTS IN PHOTOS



Chairman Arafat meets with Libyan President Col. Mu'ammar Qadhafi



with Saudi Ambassador in Beirut Gen. Ali Sha'er.



From left to Right — Fateh Central Committee member Abu al walid, Afghani F.M. Chairman Arafat and Farouk Kaddoumi, Head of PLO Political Department.

Arafat — Cheysson meeting:

"PALESTINIAN PEOPLE'S RIGHTS SHOULD BE RECOGNIZED QUICKLY"

On August 30, Claude Cheysson, the French Foreign Relations Minister, visited Lebanon in his tour of the Middle East.

A meeting took place on August 30 between the French Minister and Chairman Arafat at the Lebanese Prime Minister Mr. Shafik Al-Wazzan's house in Beirut. Among those attending were Farouk Kaddoumi, Head of the PLO Political Department, Dr. Ahmad Sudki Al-Dajani, P.L.O. Executive Committee member in charge of Arab-European dialogue matters, and the late French ambassador to Lebanon, Louis Delamare.

The meeting, which lasted for an hour, was successful and positive, as was declared by Arafat at his press conference after the meeting.

Arafat stated:

"The talks were frank, highly constructive, and positive".

Arafat also added:

"I felt his (Cheysson's) positive attitude with regard to the Palestinian people's cause and rights."

Before leaving, the French Minister addressed the journalists in a press conference at Beirut international airport and said:

"The Palestinian people's rights should be recognised quickly".

PLO DENOUNCES VIENNA SYNAGOGUE ATTACK KREISKY: THE ATTACK IS A RESULT OF ISRAELI POLICIES TOWARDS PALESTINIANS

An official spokesman for the PLO issued the following statement on August 30 concerning the attack on a Jewish synagogue in Vienna on August 29:

"The PLO strongly condemns this cowardly and criminal act and totally rejects any attempt to place responsibility on our people and our revolutionaries who fully respect the Jewish religion which is part of our spiritual heritage.

"The PLO confirms its respect for the places of worship of all religions which stems from deep faith and belief in such values and affirms its desire to strengthen the ties of friendship between the Palestinian people and the Austrian people whom we hold in the highest esteem and respect.

"The PLO finally affirms its desire to maintain friendly and good relations with the Austrian government, in particular its Chancellor, Dr. Bruno Kreisly."

The Austrian Chancellor, Dr. Bruno Kreisky, has rejected attempts by Israeli leaders to link the PLO with the bomb attack on a Jewish synagogue in Vienna.

In an interview with Austrian radio on August 30, Kreisky said he was convinced that the attackers had no connection with the PLO and that the Israeli allegations were groundless. He added that terrorism in the Middle East was a result of intransigent Israeli policies towards the Palestinian people.

COVER STORY

A SYMBOL OF HOPE

BORN

OUT OF DESTRUCTION

"Mere chance led to the discovery of the fact and to the newly born child being sent to her family." So said the coroner of the Maqasid Hospital in Beirut, Ahmad Al Harati. Smiling with wide eyes behind his glasses, he added: "Through our lifelong service in the profession, we became acquainted with a lot of curiosities and odd events, but this one is the most peculiar and thrilling. It is a form of miracle, but had, in addition, tangible and concrete aspects."

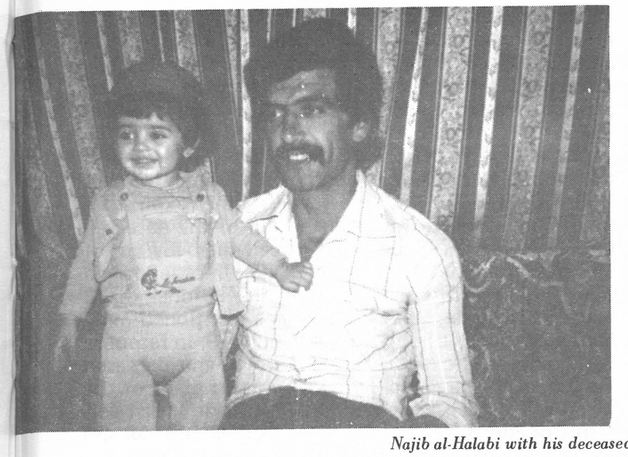
The doctor who treated the baby in the American University Hospital, Ibrahim Dubbous, says: "It is an incident that has thrilled me and stirred my emotion to the point that I realised the consequences of becoming too attached to her, which could lead to errors during the follow-up therapy. So, I have continuously consulted my fellow-doctors whenever I have to deal with a new development or symptoms. You have asked me my own feelings, regarding this distinctive case. Well, first of all I remind you that the martyred mother was Lebanese therefore I harbour grudges for naming her "Palestine". Allow me to say on behalf of the revolutionary Lebanese fighters in the Lebanese National Movement, that we claim the baby to be named Lebanon. And when we remember the father as a Palestinian, this inspires us with the name "Leb-tine", in order to be evenhanded. This girl child has become a symbol and an emblem of the revolutionaty cooperation and continuation of the Lebanese Palestinian synthesis of struggle.

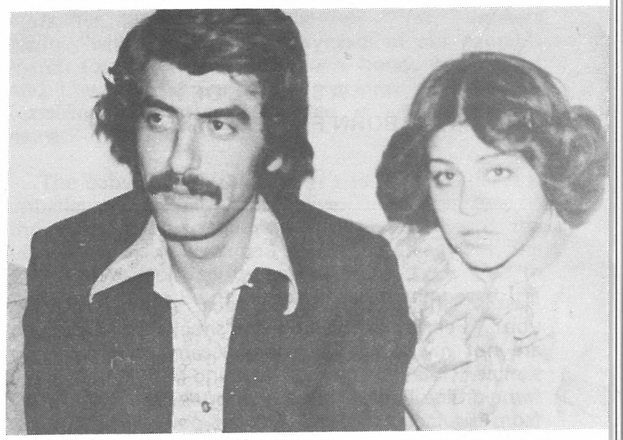
WHO IS THIS CHILD?

Seeking a meeting with the father, Najib al-Halabi, I spent a lot of time due to his rapid mobility from one place to another because of his engagement in a variety of duties. He was shuttling between the American University Hospital, the Palestinian Red Crescent Association, the military base and last of all, his relatives' dwellings. Eventually, I found the man in his home, a man of 32 years old, bearded, tall and able-bodied, looking smart and tidy. His eyes are haunted by vague horrors. The man said: "The day had no ordinary start. My wife Fatima-Palestine, now late, made me the morning coffee, then she headed to her sister's house, nearby. We all live in the Fakhani area of Beirut. The time was 10 a.m. The night before, we had left our two and a half year-old child, Katia, at the house of her aunt. For my part, I went to see a friend not far from the place at the end of the same street. He is also a family friend. Personally, I expect Israeli air raids on any part of Lebanon at any time, provided the place includes Palestinians or Lebanese freedom fighters. Anyway, it did'nt come to my mind, absolutely, that a heavily populated area inside the Lebanese capital like the Fakhani quarter would be the target of that bombing, as happened then.

"However there were casual shellings, from the Eastern part of Beirut, by the Phalangists. But this was not more than mortar shells and other anti-personnel missiles. Anyway the period was marked by a truce, due to the Arab attempts to solve the tangles and stalemate of the Lebanese question.

"As soon as I heard the roaring over my head, which was followed one second later by horrible explosions, I dropped to the ground and lay flat. The afflicted area was not out of sight. I raised my face from the pavement and saw nothing around clearly. At once the smell of the gunpowder reached my nose accompanied by warm air. I could make nothing out clearly. Only a reddish black flame was visible but through a blurred background. Remembering my wife





Najib al-Halabi with his deceased wife Fatmeh and his daughter Katia

and child, I was anxious. The place contained my family.

"I hurried to the closest shelter, where I found my friend Bilal who said with panic: 'I saw your wife enter the Rahmeh building which has been hit". The words were like the pouring of oil over firewood. I rushed in outrage to the spot. I rushed into the entrance foyer of the building and noticed, with blurred eyes, a body-like figure. I rubbed my eyes but the dirt and dust were in the air itself. I approached. A deep sort of prophetic sense was pushing me towards finding out what was in store for me.

"The body was covered with rubble. An easy way to find out was to examine the garment. Delirium struck in my deepest thoughts. I shook off the dust from the lower part of her clothes, but this was not enough. To acheive the purpose, I was obliged to bring my eyes closer to it. Yes...it was my wife, drenched with blood, dust and rubble.

"There is no way to express my feelings at that moment. Let me say, the stream of fleeing people dragged me away. I found myself near the shelter, again, where I told my friend about the tragedy. Inside the shelter, I saw a troop of children, which made me worried about the fate of small Katia.

"I went through more anxiety and found no one to allay or dismiss my fears.

"Every one has his own personal kind of uneasiness. Later, in the evening, my sister-in-law came accompanied by my Katia and asked abruptly: 'Where is Fatima?' I kept silent. She added, tearfully, 'I know she has died, only tell me where I can see her.' I warned her not to disturb the baby, Katia, who then interfered; 'Auntie please go to bring my Mummy from the street. I fear she missed the way home.' When the raids came to an end the ambulance men transferred the corpse of my wife to the Maqasid Hospital and consigned her to a refregeration plant. At that time, my mind was not working properly.

A Flash of Hope
Burial under Israeli shelling

"My friends and comrades insisted on carrying out my wish to bury the martyr in her village of Arzay in south Lebanon, despite the continuing Israeli shelling over the whole area. This burial was postponed, but took place later under Israeli shelling. On July 20, at noon, Bilal came with an issue of *Al Safir,* a Beirut paper. He pointed to the editorial which was usually written by Talal Salman, the editor-in-chief. He talked about the story of a one-day old baby taken out of the wreckage of the destroyed buildings, and now in Beirut Hospital. My heart leaped. I felt a new wind of good tidings through this news.

"How could I ever forget that my wife was pregnant and in the last days of her nine months? How could I ever envisage Fatima deserting me without presenting a living incentive and memorial to inspire me to continue our life-long struggle against the Israeli invaders and aggressors, that struggle which we had lived together. I hurried to Beirut Hospital and asked about the one day-old baby. The nurse showed me into a room fully crammed with lost and wounded children.

A Shock

"The view was intolerable. I looked at the little baby whose lower half was covered and leg bandaged tightly. Then there was a dramatic event.

"A bouncing man with balding head hastily moved his eyes around, attracting the attention of those present inside the place. He cried:' 'Let me see'. Then gazing at the queue of children he showed disappointment and was about to depart when a stifled and deep shout came out: Father, father:

A SYMBOL OF HOPE BORN FROM DESTRUCTION

Hastily, the man returned back, saying, 'Who are you? ' Fearful of having more shocks, he said: 'You are not my son.' The room became dominated by silence while the boy's voice rang out: 'You are my father.' The hapless boy tried to take the wraps away from his face and head and get out of his bed. But when the boy, amazingly, ultered the names of his mother and brothers, the joy was marred by sorrow. One youth there whispered in my hearing that it was a disaster. It seems that this boy had been deformed after being the most beatiful child in his quarter. This tragic event momentarily distracted my attention from my baby. My baby had two medical tubes inserted into her nose and mouth to give her artificial feeding. But was this child realy mine?

THE MEDICAL EVIDENCE

"At this point, my friend, who was always sober enough, reminded me that it was necessary to postpone the burial of my wife's corpse because her body was the only evidence to answer that question.

"Having been told that an ambulance man belonging to the Palestinian Red Crescent Society had saved my baby, I came into contact with this society where they told me the complete story of what happened. The first aid man told me that he caught sight of two babies (there was another baby of two years old) on the first staircase of the building. The one he approached was dirtied, bloodstained and about to be suffocated by the smoke which pervaded the atmosphere, while another man saved the other child.

"It is worth noting here that I found my wife on the ground floor while the baby was lying on the first floor. Seemingly, the pressure of the explosions simultaneously with a hit in the hip of the deceased broke her abdomen open and forced the baby out of her placenta on to the ground. The mother rolled down the staircase." Dr. Harati, the coroner of Al Maqasid Hospital, stated this as was mentioned in *Al Safir* newspaper of July 20: "On July 19, in response to a request, I examined the body of the deceased Fatima al Sughayar in the refrigeration plant of the Maqasid Hospital. She had died on July 17, 1981 as a result of the Israeli bombing of the Fakhani area and the following was apparent:

"The stomach had been broken open, and the intestine and womb had been separated from it. It had broken open so that the remainder of the placenta stayed in it, while the foetus was not there, which shows that the deceased was pregnant before death." Dr. Harati affirmed that a piece of sharpnel hit the mother's hip, penetrating it and the womb. Something similar to a natural caesarian operation occured and the foetus emerged.

It seems that an ambulance man, after verifying the mother's death, cut the umbilical cord and took the foetus to Beirut Hospital. Dr. Harati added: "I examined the mother's plancenta in the womb and the remaining part of the umbilical cord on the child, and it was confirmed that they had been joined."

"Anyway" Najib continued, "I demanded that the baby be transferred to the American University Hospital where we could have more supervision for the baby, in compliance with my relatives' demands. There we encontered Dr. Dabbous, who took charge of the treatment. I heard him tell a group of pressmen: 'The hospital is doing its best to save a cherished and valuable life that has been granted by a good mother in her death agony who then died, as if purposefully, telling the Israeli Prime Minister, Begin, that the annihilation of the Palestinian people can never be achieved. ' Najib al-Halabi added: "I cannot find words expressive enough to describe this humanitarian personality of Dr. Dabbous. The man did everything possible and was like merciful father to my baby."

MIRACALOUS SURVIVAL

Her condition was not easy to survive. As well as the lower part of the baby's heel being pulled off by a bomb splinter, she suffered three ailments. First came hepatitis, then lock-jaw and last of all a difficulty in breathing, Dr. Dabbous said: "We depended heavily on giving her medical oxygen for some time until she got used to the natural way of breathing. It is true that her condition is very serious and in the meantime I cannot give very much hope. But I have to be optimistic when I realize the many miracles which happened during the time of birth. These miracles made me do my best and be optimistic to get this baby into a safe condition."

The father said: "Thank God, my daughter is out of the hospital, no more diseases. And she is at the nursing home of the Palestine Red Crescent Society where they provided her with a room. I feel that my wife Fatima is still alive, living with me. I also feel that my daughter will carry on the struggle and a new period of more intensive resistance has begun when my daughter Fatima Palestine was born."

Is her name Fatima Palestine? "Yes," answers Najib, "when she became a symbol of our people's march towards freedom. We were honoured, the girl and I, when the General Commander Abu Ammar (Chairman Arafat) participated in giving her the name."

The baby's aunt (the martyr's sister) said that it is unbelievable the baby is still alive. Telling the story of the horrible day, she said: "When we heard the planes, my sister screamed that it was an air raid. She is originally from south Lebanon and she is used to that, but we in Beirut don't know much about it," the aunt added.

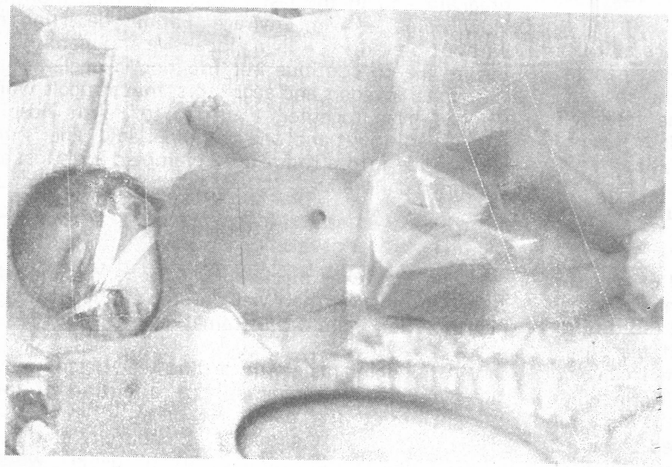
"She ran out of the room carrying her daughter Katya, and I followed her while the building was shaking due to heavy bombs falling on it, Some other people also managed to get out of their apartments, and run down the stairs to the lower stories and on to the streets which were already covered with rocks and black smoke. I couldn't see the baby who was lying behind one of the broken doors (as they told me later) and couldn't see the mother's corpse which was also lying on he ground."

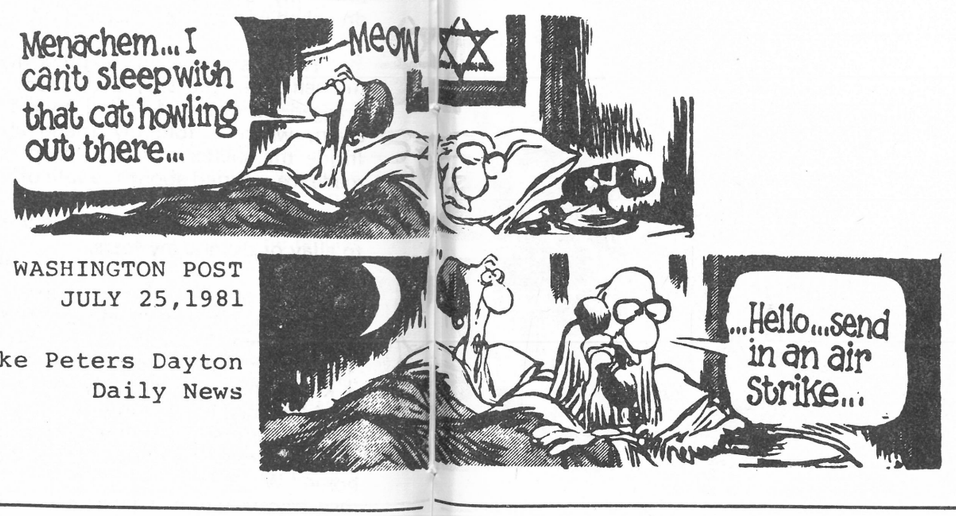
Did anybody step on the baby while people were running out? God knows.

The Youngest Handicapped Person in the World

The president of the Palestine Red Crescent Society, Dr. Fathi Arafat, commented on the matter by saying: "I think this incident is unique, and I consider the criminals are Israelis and the Americans are their backers. We are all victims. This incident is a solid proof of two things. It condemns the barbaric methods used by the Zionists. It affirmed the continuation of our struggle to the level of miracles."

Dr. Arafat took a deep breath and said: "If I was a writer, I could have written many articles about this story, many different titles, for example "One-second — old Israeli victim", "The youngest handicapped person in he world", "Tiny crutches wanted" or "Israeli shrapnel becomes best surgeon in the world". We have already printed two posters on the subject and the Union of Palestinian Doctors and Pharmacists, under the headings of "New Developments in Medicine" and of "Israeli Techniques" has published a small booklet including "letters" from the baby to all the babies in the world: "These are the circumstances of my moments of birth, the birth certificate has to be signed by a doctor but my birth certificate was never signed because the Israeli pilot took off right after he killed my mother and I didn't see his face".





THE WASHINGTON POST
JULY 25,1981

Mike Peters Dayton
Daily News

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE LEBANESE AND PALESTINIAN PEOPLES

In Beirut from September 10th to 12th, the Lebanese National Movement (LNM) and the Palestinian Revolution hosted the International Conference in Solidarity with the Lebanese and Palestinian People. The conference was attended by over 200 delegates from more than 30 countries. PLO Executive Committee member Abdel Rahim Ahmed chaired the Preparatory Committee and Lebanese Parliament and LNM member Albert Mansour chaired the actual meetings of the conference. The opening session was distinguished by speeches by LNM Deputy Secretary-General Muhsin Ibrahim and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat (see excerpts printed in this issue). Messages of solidarity were delivered by the delegates representing international unions and organizations, friendly governments, political parties and liberation movements. Women held a special meeting during the confenrece convened by Lebanese and Palestinian women's unions. In between the conference sessions there was a rich exchange of ideas and information between the delegates and their Lebanese and Palestinian hosts.

المؤتمر العالمي
للتضامن مع الشعبين اللبناني والفلسطيني
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE LEBANESE AND THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE
LA CONFERENCE INTERNATIONALE DE SOLIDARITE AVEC LES PEUPLES LIBANAIS ET PALESTINIEN
A scene from the conference

A high point in the conference came on the morning of September 12th when the foreign delegations visited south Lebanon, in two groups. The first group visited the Palestinian refugee camps of al-Bass and Rashidiyeh and the port city of Tyre, where they saw the effects of Israeli aggression and the bridges destroyed by the latest series of Israeli air raids. They also visited the headquarters of the Lebanese National Movement's regional political council in Tyre, where they were briefed on the situation in the south by the political officer in charge there. They were addressed by the head of the Fishermen's Union about Israeli piracy and the destruction in the port of Tyre and neighbouring areas.

The second group visited the Zahrani reginery and bridge and the Nabatiyeh region, including the refugee camp which had a population of 20,000 and was destroyed in 1975, and was again the target of the most recent attacks. Over 70 Palestinian and Lebanese children were martyred in Nabatiyeh camp. The delegations also met with the Joint Forces' military commander of the Nabatiyeh region, who briefed them on the results of the 6th Palestinian-Israeli war and on the role of Palestinian-Lebanese cohesion in foiling the Zionist goals. On their way back, the delegations toured the port of Sidon and the Jiyyeh area, which has been the site of several Israeli landing attempts.

After the conferees visited south Lebanon, they met in a final session and issued a declaration which is printed in full here.

TEXT OF FINAL DECLARATION

"The International Conference in Solidarity with the Lebanese and Palestinian Peoples, meeting in Beirut, Lebanon, from 10 to 12 September 1981, after having seen the consequences of the recent Israeli aggression against the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples and closely examining the situation in the Middle East, strongly condemns the barbaric Israeli aggression against the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples heightened in July 1981, bthe killing and wounding of over 2567 civilians, including women, children and old people, and by heavy material damage.

"The Conference is of the opinion that the July aggression was planned and executed with the full

Chairman Arafat addresses the conference

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE LEBANESE AND PALESTINIAN PEOPLES

connivance and encouragement of U.S. imperialism. It constitutes a serious escalation of the imperialist-Zionist conspiracies against the Arab national liberation movements in general, and agaisnt the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples in liberation movements in general, and against the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples in Middle East. It was preceded by the blatant Israeli attack on the Iraqi nuclear reactor, and followed by U.S. provocations and violation of Libyan sovereignty and the downing of two Libyan aircraft. These three actions in a short period further confirm the blatant aggressive nature of the Reagan Administration. It also confirms that the U.S. is the centre of international terrorism, using its military build-up thousands of miles away from the United States against those who struggle for freedom, independence and progress.

"The Conference draws the attention of world public opinion to the serious deterioration and gravity of the situation in the Middle East. U.S. imperialism has embarked on a new qualitative stage in its onspiracy against the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples, seeking to perpetuate its control over the riches and destiny of the region.

"The July aggression is to be viewed as part and parcel of the escalation of the imperialist aggressive actions in the Middle East, the Indian Ocean, the Arabian Gulf and other parts of the world. The tremendous world-wide U.S. military build-up, the increase of international tension, the formation of the Rapid Deployment Force, the establishment of new American military bases in Somalia, Egypt, Oman and Kenya, the Mediterranean, the Indian Ocean and the Gulf, the NATO decision to deploy Pershing-2 and Cruise missiles in Western Europe, and the full production of the neutron bomb, are among the main features of this aggressive imperialist escalation.

"The Conference believes that U.S. imperialism has assigned Israel a special role to play in its aggressive plans. This is particularly evident from the huge U.S. imperialist military, economic and political support for Israel, which has turned it into an advanced base for imperialist strategic weapons in the Middle East.

"The Conference, while drawing the attention of world public opinion to the dangers inherent in this U.S. imperialist plot, and to the gravity of the situation in the Middle East in general, and in Lebanon in particular, stresses that Israel and the USA are planning further aggression against the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples and against Syria, with the aim of dealing a blow to the Arab national liberation movement and imposing the Camp David plan on the region. Syria, the Palestinian Revolution and the Lebanese National Movement, all together, constitute a major obstacle to the realization of the US-Israeli plot in the Middle East.

"The aggressive policy pursued by U.S. imperialism and Israel constitutes a threat not only to peace and security in the Middle East, but also to the peace and security of the world.

"The Conference believes that the solution of the Palestine question is the key to a just peace in the Middle East. The solution of this question should be based on Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem, and the attainment by the Palestinian people of their inalienable national rights, as recognized by the international community in UN resolutions, including the rights of return, self-determination, and the establishment of their own independent and sovereign state on their national soil, and the recognition of the PLO as their sole legitimate representative.

"In this connection, the Conference draws attention to the deceitful efforts by U.S. imperialism to portray itself as capable of achieving peace in the region. Such efforts are only aimed at creating illusions, reviving the infamous defunct Camp David process and strengthening the U.S. imperialist grip on the Middle East.

"In this context, the Conference stresses that the 'autonomy' plan for the West Bank and Gaza Strip is an integral part of the imperialist Pax Americana, and aims to liquidate the Palestine question in the interest of imperialism, Israel and reaction.

"A just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East cannot be achieved through unilateral plans concocted by U.S. imperialism and by ignoring the Palestinian people and their representative, the PLO.

"The Conference also underlines that one of the main prerequisites for a just peace in the Middle East is the guarantee of the independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and Arab character of Lebanon.

"The problem of Lebanon, and the agony of the Lebanese people, have been fabricated by the USA and Israel. Their aim is the partition of Lebanon and the creation of sectarian statelets with the aim of dealing a fatal blow to the Arab liberation movement, fragmenting the unity of this movement by diverting it into petty secondary battles away from the principal enemy represented by Israel and world imperialism headed by the U.S. In this context, the aims of the enemy forces in Lebanon will materialize through the intensification of military and political action against the progressive forces, in order to counter their effectiveness and reduce their steadfastness in the face of the planned partition and Zionization of Lebanon, forcing Lebanon out of the Arab-Israeli confrontation.

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LMN Deputy Secretary-General Muhsin Ibrahim

"The Conference strongly condemns the escalation of repression and oppressive Israeli practices against the population in the occupied Palestinian territories and other occupied Arab territories, namely the physical liquidation, expropriation of land, establishment of colonial settlements, demolition of houses, deportation of citizens (particularly elected officials and leading personalities), demographic and geographic changes, and desecration of, and excavation under, the Holy Places. The Conference particularly deplores the inhuman treatment of thousands of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails, which has been recurrently condemned by the United Nations.

"The Conference warmly greets the heroic resistance of the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples against the imperialist-Israeli aggression, and hails their determination to repel any further aggression and to attain their just demands.

"The Conference highly appreciates the selfless aid and support rendered to the Palestinian Revolution and the Lebanese National Movement by all progressive, democratically-minded people in the world, led by the Soviet Union and the other Socialist countries, as well as that of trade unions, mass organisations and political parties. The broad participation in the Conference manifests the overwhelming worldwide support for and solidarity with the struggle of the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples. The Conference calls on all forces, regardless of their political and religious differences, to intensify their support to the embattled Palestinian and Lebanese peoples.

"The Conference directs a fervent appeal to the UN, to all governments, and to peoples everywhere, to take immediate effective measures to prevent the occurrence of further aggression against Lebanon, and to stay the hand of U.S. imperialism and the Israeli aggressors.

"The Conference demands that mandatory sanctions be imposed on Israel by the UN for its continued aggression against the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples, and for its continued violation of UN resolutions.

"It is the imperiative duty of world public opinion to condemn and to bring to trial all those perpetrators of the genocidal against the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples.

"The Conference particularly urges public opinion in the U.S. and Western European countries to bring pressure to bear on their governments to stop all support and aid to Israel, and to force a change in the policy of their governments towards the problem of the Middle East.

"Let us all struggle to defeat the plan of genocidal war against the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples."

In the next issue of *Palestine* we will be publishing interviews and statements from some of the many delegates who attended the conference.

At the Conference:

CHAIRMAN ARAFAT WARNS OF NEW U.S.-ISRAELI AGGRESSION

Arafat: We will emerge victorious

When the International Conference in Solidarity with the Lebanese and Palestinian Peoples opened on September 10, PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat attended the first session along with Deputy Secretary-General of the Lebanese National Movement. Muhsin Ibrahim and Nayif Hawatmeh, Secretary-General of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine. The opening session ended with an address from Chairman Arafat from which we print excerpts below.

"This conference meets over one month after the Sixth Palestinian-Israeli war, which was planned by Israeli circles with the support of the new US Administration, and implemented by Israeli military tools under the declared fascist, racist slogan of 'liquidation of the Palestinian people, the PLO and its allies, the Lebanese people and their nationalist forces.' This is the framework of an overall American offensive in our region, aimed to subjucate the region and its peoples and impose a *fait accompli,* completely contradicting the interests of these peoples, their aspirations and their national independence.

After giving a detailed history of the July Palestinian-Israeli war, Chairman Arafat continued:

"Friends and Brothers, it was a full scale war, during which the enemy used all its weapons, as was admitted by the naval and artillery commanders. According to their communiques, over 60% of their air force was in action during those fifteen days. The results, however, showed that, as the Arabic proverb says, the rulers' calculations differed from those of the ruled.

"The core of the battle was the struggle between the defenders of a just cause and their legitimate rights and a blind war machine run by a fascist terrorist junta motivated by determination to pursue a genocidal war against the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples. In this confrontation, which was unequal in both military and technical terms, man stood up to the American-Israeli war machine, and the will for justice overcame the resolution to carry out a fascist and racist war of annihilation.

"The fact that Israeli plans were turned upside down underlines a fact of great importance. That is that the front of the Joint Forces in South Lebanon, which was considered the weakest and most exposed front, with no red or green lines to protect it, proved in fact to be a strong, cohesive rampart...

"This front has also proven its ability to repay the suffering it has borne for so long carrying it to the heart of the enemy. As you well know, we responded to the call for a ceasefire and agreed to stop shelling from the Lebanese front, but we agreed from a position of strength. We expressed our commitment to international responsibilities, which we have long respected. We responded to the ceasefire call in response to an appeal issued by the UN Security Council and Secretary General Waldheim, on condition that the other party also abide by it.

"Here, one important question arises: Does the matter end here? The answer is no. We are well aware of the developments on the scuthern border, where Israeli military concentrations and manoeuvres are taking place.

"Through our intelligence services, we know of a new large-scale operation being planned, and we must be ready for it. The details of this operation were taken along with Begin, Sharon and Shamir to the United States, and that is why the situation is currently passing through a dangerous phase. We must therefore prepare ourselves for the coming confrontation, which will obstruct our aspirations for a just peace. In all sincerity and responsibility, I say that as the protector of Israel's constant acts of aggression, the US administration bears responsibility for destroying the chances of peace in this region. It supplies Israel with all the instruments of force, it denies our people their legitimate rights to return, self determination and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state over their national soil, and it holds fast to the Camp David framework imposed on the Arab nation despite the development of an Arab stand completely rejecting this framework, which serves in fact to consecrate Israeli occupation and presents a very real challenge to a just peace – all this despite an almost unanimous worldwide conviction that this framework is futile and incapable of realising a true and just peace in the region.

"If we look at the series of events which followed Camp David, we can see that it clearly carried the beginnings of a full-scale Middle East war. This confirms that the Camp David accords were not simply wrong interpretations based on fragile foundations, but also a dangerous turning point towards more wars and greater regional and international instability.

"The Camp David accords gave birth to a feeble plan, described by its authors as a radical solution to the Palestinian problem: the 'self-rule' scheme, which in fact constitutes a conspiracy against our people and our national aspirations, and a consecration of Israeli occupation of our land and our homeland.

"This conspiracy has been rejected by our people, both inside the occupied territories and outside. We are against it and will continue the struggle against it. The great uprisings inside the occupied territories attest to this steadfastness in the face of Zionist occupation, and the people's commitment to their legitimate and inalienable national rights. There can be no stability, no peace and no settlement by ignoring the Palestinian people's rights.

"War begins in Palestine, and there can likewise be no peace unless it passes through Palestine. These are the most important data in the region, and all must be aware of them.

"We are currently living in a world where tension is spreading and its explosive dimensions are unknowable. Where in the world is there not the ghost of a threat, the danger of fire? We here in the Middle East, because of its location, see that the coming phase will be extremely hot and dangerous. Our region is surrounded by US fleets in the Mediterranean, the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean and the Gulf, besides the bases established in Ras Banas, Masira and Berbera, in Egypt, Oman and Somalia, and the current attempts to establish bases in Malilla and Sabta – not to mention the Israeli expansionist schemes.

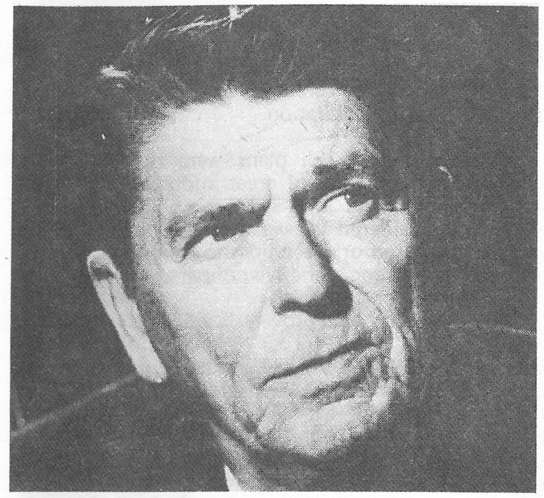
"These interrelated facts support our belief that the region is witnessing dangerous developments, and it is not an exaggeration to say that we are living on top of a powder keg, whose fuse is in the hands of the US administration and their Israeli military instruments, and whose explosion will not affect this region alone, but the whole world. So, let us all work together to confront this coming phase with greater militant solidarity among the peace-loving peoples of the world, looking forward towards a better world.

"Let us work together at confronting the main enemy of this part of the world, represented in the arrogance of Zionist military adventurism and its aggressive tendencies. Let us work together for a brighter future, for he heroic Lebanese people achieving their own aspirations over their free independent land. Our people reject resettlement and an alternative homeland. We are struggling to return to Palestine, and we are being martyred for our beloved Palestine, for our own free and independent state and our own capital city, Holy Jerusalem.

"Let us all work for a brighter future for all the militant Arab peoples, to enable them to regain their usurped rights and consolidate their sovereignty, national independence and development. Let us all work for world peace based on justice.

Begin meets Reagan:

NEW STRATEGIC ALLIANCE IS OLD HAT BUT STILL DANGEROUS



Reagan: The new strategic alliance

At the beginning of September Zionist Prime Minister Begin arrived in the United States for his first encounter with the Reagan Administration. He was accompanied by a larger than usual entourage which would try and iron out any new modalities in the continued unholy imperialist-Zionist alliance. War Minister Sharon was along to do some military shopping and plan with American defense officials possible joint military actions for the future. Foreign Minister Yizhak Shamir came along to work out how new joint acts of aggression might be presented diplomatically before world opinion. And Interior Minister Yosef Borg would consult with American officials on how to dispose of the Palestinian question as the tired Camp David "autonomy" talks will once again make a half-hearted debut on September 23.

Despite reports that the Reagan Administration has yet to formulate a Middle East policy, the Begin visit indicates that the Reagan Administration is picking up on the same policy threads sewn by the Carter Administration and pushing them along in an orderly way to their illogical conclusions. Reagan once again called for strengthening America's strategic alliance with Israel. Carter was chanting this theme at this same time a year ago and was trying to demonstrate its substance by sending the U.S. Sixth Fleet on a visit to Haifa and dispatching then Deputy Deense Secretary Robert Komer to Israel to revive the annual U.S.-Israeli "strategic dialogue."

This year there were again joint declarations about Israel's value in thwarting supposed Soviet expansionism in the Middle East. These anti-Soviet incantations looked particularly out of place this year when they came just in the wake of the Begin government's attack against Iraqi nuclear installations and the savage bombing of Beirut. Nonetheless, Reagan stated after his two meetings with Begin: "We are working together with you and other friends in the Middle East to counter Soviet aggression and reinforce the security of all the countries in the region." After the American and Israeli attacks against Iraq, Libya and Lebanon during the summer, the September 11th TASS evaluation of the Begin-Reagan meetings was more to the point: "The military alliance between the United States and Israel represents a direct menace to peace and security in the Middle East, particularly for the Arab countries of this region."

The concrete results of the meetings did in fact take on a purely military and aggressive character. The American television network NBC announced on September 10 that the United States and Israel had decided to create a direct U.S. military presence in Israel and to carry out joint military manoeuvres probably in the first part of 1982. According to NBC, these manoeuvres would take place on Israeli territory and would test the effects of land weapons and American planes. The next day *Agence France Presse* reported that the two parties had decided to open immediate discussions on holding joint naval manoeuvres, stockpining American military equipment in Israel and continuing long-term strategic consultations. On September 9, the Israeli Finance Minister transmitted a request to the U.S. government for $3 billion in military and economic aid for the coming fiscal year to finance the whole "strategic Alliance."

Begin: Israel is more than a strategic asset

All these moves had been contemplated by the Carter Administration. Carter's Defense Secretary Harold Brown first suggested the stockpiling idea in a memo reported by the *New York Times* on February 2, 1980. After Pentagon official Robert Komer's visit to Israel last September, Begin stated at the time: "Members of the American Administration have asked if Israel would accept to accord the United States a base in the Sinai. I have responded that the initiative should come from Washington and if this were the case, I would be in favour." Begin also pleaded for joint military exercises. The Begin-Reagan meetings only brought these plans closer to implementation.

Supposedly there was one bone of contention in the Begin-Reagan meetings over the U.S. sale of AWACS to Saudi Arabia. But the AWACS are already operating in Saudi Arabia under complete American control. When Komer was meeting Begin last September, the U.S. sent 4 AWACS and 300 troops to Saudi Arabia allegedly to protet Saudi oil fields against air raids which might occur as a result of the Iraqi-Iranian war. The AWACS are still there. How much contention could there be? The AWACS presently in Saudi Arabia did not stop Israeli warplanes from overflying Saudi airspace this summer on their bombing mission to destroy Iraqi nuclear installations. The current proposed AWACS sales have a reported stipulation that the intelligence information generated from the planes would have to be first evaluated by American intelligence analysts and could not be transmitted to a third country. American controllers permanently stationed at Saudi military airfields would even have the authority to destruct the planes in mid-air if they thought it necessary. It has also been reported that in exchange for the AWACS sales to Saudi Arabia, the Israelis will be compensated with U.S. surveillance information generated from spy satellites which are superior to the AWACS. Israeli military technicians were given a thorough tour of the AWACS two weeks before the Begin-Reagan meetings to reassure them that nothing would be handed to the Saudis that they did not know about.

Whether or not the Saudis actually receive the new shipment of AWACS is of secondary importance, although the Begin government is concerned that Israel remain the king pin in the American strategy for military and political hegemony in the Middle East. Of primary importance is the American penetration of the region and the suffering it brings with it for the peoples of the region struggling for self-determination and freedom from imperialist bondage. On September 12, in an interview with the American television programme "Good Morning America," U.S. Secretary of State Haig gave a glimpse of what the Zionist-imperialist "strategic alliance" will mean for the peoples of the region. He said that during Begin's visit, the Israelis had not made any commitment to refrain in the future from military aggression in the region such as the attack on the Iraqi nuclear installations and the savage bombing of Beirut. Such a "strategic alliance" which allows for indiscriminate campaigns of terror against the peoples of the regions is also a dangerous threat to the peace and stability of the whole world.

Sadat: Seeking a role

WORLD EVENTS

THE U.S. USES BACTERIOLOGICAL WARFARE AGAINST CUBA

The Cuban government accused the United States of utilizing bacteriological weapons against Cuba. In a communique published on September 9 in the official organ of the Cuban Communist Party, Gramma, the government announced the appearance of an epidemic of conjunctivitis which provokes internal haemorrhaging and added: The strange form and the inexplicable way in which the disease has appeared in Cuba confirms to us more profoundly than anything else that the government of the United States is utilizing bacteriological weapons against our country."

According to the commuique, 1,815 persons have been affected by the epidemic from September 3rd to the 7th. The government stated that 1,815 cases had been discovered in Havana as well as in several provincial towns. The communique was released a month and a half after declarations of President Fidel Castro on July 27 accusing the CIA of having introduced tropical fever in Cuba. This disease caused 113 deaths since the month of June. The epidemic of conjunctivitis is less grave than was the tropical fever. The disease can be cured within one or two weeks.

The communique concluded that the conjunctivitis transmitted by a virus precedes a possible imperialist act of aggression against the island of Cuba.

RACIST SOUTH AFRICAN REGIME STILL OCCUPYING ANGOLAN PROVINCE

As we go to press South African troops are still occupying the Angolan province of Cunene on the border with Namibia. South African troops first mounted a full-scale invasion of Angola on August 23.

The South African invasion has demonstrated that the apartheid regime enjoys the full support of the Reagan Administration in whtever aggression it intends to pursue. When a resolution came up for a vote in the United Nations Security Council on September 1 to denouce the South Arican invasion, the United States was the only country to cast a negative vote. The U.S. vote has now doomed any hopes for a negotiated settlement concerning independence for occupied Namibia.

The Soviet newspaper *Pravda* has its own correspondent in Angola covering the invasion, who reported on September 8 that one of the main purposes of the South African military incursion into Angola is to isolate Namibia completely from the outside world. This would ensure the unhindered implementation of Pretoria's own plan for proclaiming a so-called "independence" of Namibia.

Inside Namibia itself, the *Pravda* correspondent reported that racist punitive detachments are putting the population to fire and the sword. Systematic "scorched earth" operations are conducted in the northern and central districts. Villages are destroyed. The occupiers seize property and cattle. The survivors are driven into concentration camps euphemistically called "protected hamlets." Those suspected of sabotage or just of sympathy with SWAPO are subjected to torture and humiliation.

Speaking at a rally in Luanda on September 8, a member of the Political Bureau of the Angolan Workers' Party, Evatisto Domingos, confirmed that despite South African threats, Angola will continue to support the struggle of all oppressed peoples and specifically the peoples of Namibia and South Africa with SWAPO and the African National Congress at the head for real freedom and independence against racism and apartheid.

OCCUPATION DIARY

GENERAL STRIKE IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES TO PROTEST AT ISRAELI EXCAVATIONS IN JERUSALEM

In response to a call by the Higher Islamic Council, a general strike was observed throughout the occupied territories, in protest against the Israeli authorities' continued desecration of holy places in the city of Jerusalem.

Palestinian shops and business closed, and students stayed away from schools in Nablus, Bethlehem, Ramallah, Beit Sahour, Hebron, Jerusalem, Salfit, al-Bireh, Tulkarm, and other West Bank towns and villages. The Gaza Municipality decided to endorse the Islamic Council's call and the strike was observed in all areas of the Gaza Strip. Israeli military patrols were stepped up, but no clashes were reported between them and Palestinian citizens.

The Higher Islamic Council issued a communique on September 1, calling for the strike. The Council protested in particular about new excavations under the walls of the Haram al-Sharif and al-Aqsa Mosque, which are threatened with serious damage as a result. The Begin Government has recently authorized these excavations.

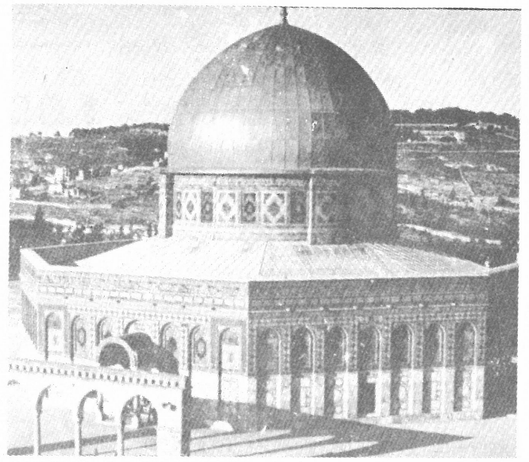
The Islamic Council has received dozens of cables of support from patriotic institutions throughout the occupied territories.

The Neturei Karta Jewish anti-Zionist movement sent a cable to UN-Secretary-General Dr. Kurt Waldheim, in which it protested against the excavations, and demanded that the UN issue a resolution declaring Jerusalem to be an international city.

The Secretary-General of the Arab League, al-Chadli al-Qleibi, has called on UNESCO, the International Heritage Committee, world public opinion and all peace-loving states to put an end to the Israeli destruction of al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem, following excavation works under the Mosque, which are harming its foundations.

In a communique issued on September 1, Qleibi added that after the Israeli air raids on the Iraqi nuclear reactor and on Beirut and south Lebanon, the Israeli authorities are now violating the sanctity of one of the holiest places in Islam.

The President of the Higher Islamic Council, Sheikh Saadeddir al-Alami, held a press conference on September 2, in which he revealed the dangers threatening the Holy City and al-Aqsa Mosque as a result of the diggings. Al-'Alami said that during the latest Israeli excavations, an old well was unearthed. The well had been discovered in 1880 by the British archeologist Warren. The Israelis took this find as a justification to pursue the old dream of discovering Solomon's Temple.



Al-Aqsa Mosque has been subjected to several attacks by Zionist fanatics as well as by Zionist authorities. These attacks began on August 15, 1967 when a group of Israeli officers held prayers in the grounds of the Mosque, followed by a statement issued in 1967 by the Israeli Minister of Religion that al-Aqsa Mosque had to be demolished in order to rebuild Solomon's Temple on the same site.

On August 21, 1969, the Mosque was set on fire. This was followed by the decision of the Israeli authorities to allow Jews to hold their prayers on the grounds of the Mosque. In May 1980, an attempt to blow up the Mosque was foiled.

Meanwhile, Teddy Kollek, the Israeli Mayor of Jerusalem, has warned of the possibility of a major conflict if the Judaization of Jerusalem is not rapidly completed.

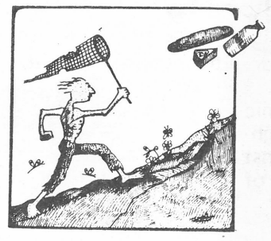
In a statement on September 2, Kollek expressed his concern for the future of Jews in Jerusalem and about its current demographic character. The number of Arabs is increasing, he warned, while the number of Jews is on the decline.

Kollek said that all Israeli government departments, party offices and the Histadrut should be moved to Jerusalem to strengthen its 'Zionist character'.

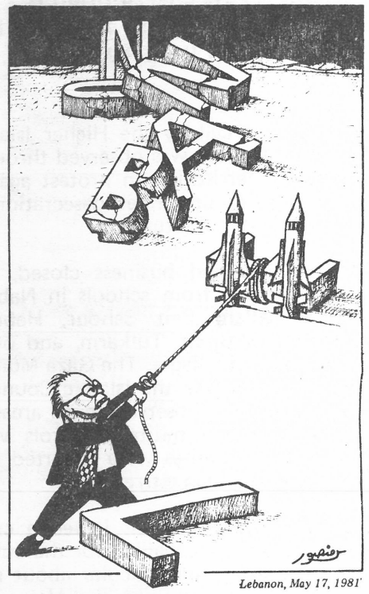
Al-Fajr Cartoonist Suleiman Mansour

Top Palestinian Artist Detained for "Security"

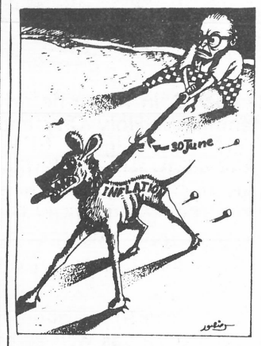
Palestine, January 1981



Inflation, January 1981

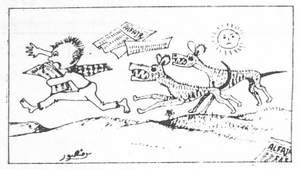


Lebanon, May 17, 1981



Israeli Elections, June 30, 1981

Land Day, March 30, 1981



Suleiman Mansour, a leading Palestinian artist and regular cartoonist for *Al Fajr,* and other members of his family were arrested as they were leaving the West Bank for a vacation in northern Palestine on July 27. An Israeli border patrol jeep stopped the family car, in which Suleiman Mansour was travelling with his wife, young daughter and in-laws, at 6:30 a.m. The three men, Suleiman, his father-in-law and brother-in-law, were arrested, allegedly for 'taking photographs in a military area.'

The wife of Suleiman Mansour told *Al Fajr* later that her husband had been photographing villages in the West Bank. "Suleiman was photographing the villages so he could draw them later," she said. Suleiman Mansour had been preparing an exhibition on the Palestinian village for over a year. Advertisements about the project have appeared in the local press.

When Ramallah mayor Karim Khal f telephoned the military governor the day after the detention he was told that the governor "could not confirm" the Mansour family's whereabouts. Following the release of news of Suleiman's arrest to foreign and local journalists, the military governor confirmed that the three were being held in Ramallah pending interrogation.

Two days after the arrests Elias Katu'ah, Suleiman's 70-year-old father- in-law, was released. Elias Katu'ah is deaf and was unable to communicate with his interrogators. Ghassan Katu'ah, Suleiman's brother-in-law, is still under detention in Ramallah prison. The family lawyer, Ibrahim Abu Ata, has not been allowed to see his clients.

Suleiman Mansour is probably the most prominent artist working in the occupied territories. Several of his paintings have been mass-produced and sold both in Palestine and abroad. He has been harassed many times by the occupation authorities. Last year they raided, and closed for several months, 'Gallery 79, the only art gallery in the occupied territories, in which Suleiman is a partner. Two weeks ago he was turned back at the bridge when he tried to leave the West Bank to Jordan.

ARMED RESISTANCE

Palestinian commandos inside occupied Palestinian territories have intensified their military operations both in quality and quantity against Zionist military targets. These operations proved the capacity of the Palestinian commandos to reach their targets despite the intensive Zionist security measures adopted to maintain the Israeli war machine and troops.

MILITARY DEPOTS DESTROYED IN NATANYA

No. 43/81

One of our commando units placed several timed explosive charges inside several factories and military depots in Natanya on the night of August 22.

At 2:15 a.m. on Sunday August 23, the charges went off causing fires to break out inside the industrial area, which continued until noon despite the efforts of firemen who had rushed from Tel Aviv. Material losses from the fires are estimated at thousands of shekels. Several fire officers were injured while trying to extinguish the blaze.

No. 44/81

At dawn on Sunday August 23, a special commando unit placed a timed explosive charge inside the military cooperative in Kiryat Gat, near Bir al-Sabe'.

Shortly before midday, the charge was discovered and detonated by an Israeli explosives expert. The blast caused heavy material losses inside the cooperative.

The Israeli security forces proceeded to arrest a large number of Palestinians on suspicion of their involvement in the operation. Our unit returned safely to base.

Hand grenade injures several Zionist soldiers in Ramleh

No. 45/81

A Palestinian commando belonging to special unit C threw a hand grenade on August 23 at a military transport depot in Ramleh. Several Israeli soldiers were injured in the blast and a number of military vehicles were damaged.

The Israeli security forces surrounded the area and began a search for the commando who nevertheless returned safely to base.

Explosive charges at the Military Academy in Bir al-Sabe'

No. 46/81

Palestinian commandos operating inside the occupied territories placed several explosive charges inside the Military Academy in Bir al-Sabe'.

At midnight on August 23, the charges went off destroying a large part of the school, causing fires to break out in storage centres and injuring several cadets and instructors. Firemen and rescue teams could not bring the blaze under control until late the next morning. The commandos returned safely to base.

No.47/81

On Monday August 24, Palestinian commandos planted a timed explosive charge in a military transport station on the Ra'nana-Herzliya road north of Tel Aviv.

At 7:50 a.m. during the rush hour, the charge went off. It destroyed part of the station and wounded a large number of Israeli soldiers.

The Israeli security forces proceeded to arrest several Palestinian citizens and searched the region for other charges. The commandos returned safely to base.

Military transport station destroyed in Jerusalem

No. 48/81

At dawn on Monday August 24, Palestinian commandos placed a timed explosive charge inside a military station in the French Hill settlement in occupied Jerusalem.

At 6:30 a.m. the charge was discovered. Explosive experts were called in to dismantle the charge but were unable to do so. The security forces brought in a mechanical device for defusing charges but the charge exploded and the station and a police vehicle were destroyed in the blast.

An intensive search was begun and several Palestinians were arrested at Israeli check points on suspicion of involvement in the operation. Our commandos, however, returned safely to base.

No. 49/81

On the morning of August 23, Palestinian commandos threw a hand grenade at a military transport station in Lydd. Several military vehicles were damaged in the resulting blast.

Israeli security forces combed the region in search of other charges. Meanwhile, the entrances to the town were closed in an attempt to arrest the commandos. Our militants, however, returned safely to base.

No. 50/81

On the evening of August 24, a special commando group belonging to unit C set up an ambush for Israeli military vehicles on the road leading to Elon Moreh settlement, near Nablus.

Just before midnight, the commandos ambushed a group of Israeli soldiers, firing automatic weapons at the military vehicle transporting them. Several soldiers were killed or wounded and the vehicle was damaged.

Israeli security forces searched the surrounding area and arrested

several Palestinian citizens on suspicion of their involvement in the operation. Meanwhile, our militants returned safely to base.

Israeli military vehicle destroyed north of Tel Aviv

No. 51/81

On August 28, Palestinian commandos operating inside the occupied territories planted a timed explosive charge inside a military vehicle of the Israeli Border Guards parked in the Bnei Brak suburb to the north of Tel Aviv.

At noon, the charge went off as the vehicle was started. The passengers were injured and the vehicle badly damaged in the blast. Israeli security forces rushed to the scene and began a search for the commandos who nevertheless returned safely to base.

Military Cooperative destroyed in Lydd.

No. 52/81

A Palestinian commando belonging to special unit "C" operating inside the occupied territories planted a timed explosive charge in front of a consumer cooperative belonging to the Israeli forces in Herzl Street in Lydd on Saturday August 29. At 11:30 p.m., the charge went off, destroying a part of the cooperative, damaging its contents and smashing windows of neighbouring shops.

The Israeli security forces encircled the area and began a search in which they arrested several Palestinian citizens on suspicion of their involvement in the operation.

Explosive charges damage central bus station in Jerusalem

No. 53/81

Palestinian commandos operating inside the occupied territories placed several timed explosive charges inside parts of the central bus station in Jerusalem early on Monday August 31.

At 8:15 a.m., the first charge went off, wounding several Israeli settlers. The area was evacuated, and during a search, Israeli security forces discovered two more charges before they were timed to explode. The charges were dismantled by explosives experts.

The security forces transferred the operations of the Egged bus company elsewhere, and arrested several Palestinian citizens on suspicion of their involvement in the operation.

... And a Zionist guard station in Acre

No. 54/81

On Monday August 31, Palestinian commandos planted a timed explosive charge near a guard stand in the centre of Acre.

Shortly after midday, the charge went off, injuring several Israeli settlers and damaging a car parked nearby. Israeli security forces encircled the area and arrested several Palestinian citizens on suspicion of their involvement in the operation.

DELEGATION OF EUROPEAN LIBERAL YOUTH ENDS VISIT TO WEST BANK

On August 31, a delegation of the European Liberal Youth Union left the occupied territories following a two day visit during which they met with mayors and other prominent Palestinian national figures.

The delegation had visited Nablus and met with the mayor and members of the municipality who presented a detailed explanation of the current situation of the Palestinians under occupation and confirmed their resolution to achieve the right to self-determination and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state under the leadership of the PLO.

The delegation also visited al-Bireh and Ramallah where they met with Mayors Ibrahim al-Tawil and Karim Khalaf. The two mayors confirmed the Palestinian people's absolute opposition to the Camp David accords and the "self rule" scheme.

A reception was held in Jerusalem in honour of the delegation. Several heads of unions and federations, both local and international, attended the reception during which the delegation expressed intense interest in the Palestine cause and referred to the rise in public opinion's support for the Palestinian people's struggle, particularly in Europe. All the members of the delegation affirmed full support for the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

The members of the delegation represent various liberal youth parties in Scotland and Italy and the President of the EEC's Liberal Youth Organisation.

ISRAELI AUTHORITIES WITHHOLD LICENSES FROM PALESTINIAN BUS COMPANY

On August 30, the Israeli authorities in Ramallah refused to grant licenses for a fleet of buses purchased by the Palestine Transportation Company and financed by the Joint Palestinian-Jordanian Committee.

In a message sent to Arab transportation companies, the Israeli authorities referred to the necessity of returning the money to the Committee as a precondition to grant licenses for the buses. The Israeli authorities also asked the administration of the Arab Doura Transportation Company and the Fawwar Bus Company to return the financial aid that they have received from abroad.

The Israeli authorities earlier this month issued a decree prohibiting Palestinian patriotic institutions and municipalities from receiving material support from abroad especially from the Joint Palestinian-Jordanian Committee. The move has been seen as part of a deliberate policy to strangle economic life in the occupied territories.

Nablus Mayor Bassam al-Shak'a confirmed that the West Bank municipalities will overcome all the obstacles placed in the way of their obtaining the necessary funds, from whatever source, to provide an acceptable level of municipal services. Shak'a made the statement in response to the Israeli authorities' decision to prevent the financial aid of the Joint Palestinian-Jordanian Committee from reaching the West Bank organisations and municipalities.

He said that the Israeli authorities have not provided any alternative to the aid from the Joint Palestinian-Jordanian Committee, which has been prevented from entering the country.

Shak'a confirmed that: "all these measures reveal a clear plan, which is an attempt to revive the Camp David talks and incorporate the occupied territories into this policy."

MORE INFLATION, SOARING DEBTS:

NO WAY OUT FOR ISRAEL'S ECONOMY

Recent years have plainly illustrated that the impact of Israel's policies of militarism and aggression have given rise to high armaments expenditures, the principal cause of the country's hyper-inflation and economic instability. Israel posted a mild 50% annual inflation rate in 1979 (*The Times,* October 25, 1980) which more than doubled to 111% in 1980 *(Ibid)* and was allowed to reach the unchecked rate of 138% by the end of 1980 (*The Times,* November 15, 1980). The outlook for the remainder of 1981 continues to be gloomy for the Israeli economy as triple-digit inflation is expected to prevail. In the meantime the Israelis continue to adhere to a high-expenditure armaments budget that counteracts all remedial economic measures. What kind of a political-economic picture has developed as a result of these conditions?

The Causes of the Inflation

The roots of Israel's rating as the world's inflation leader, with a rate of 140% recorded in July (*The Times,* July 13, 1981) are linked with the generally identifiable causes of any inflationary economy. Inflation occurs when consumer demand exceeds the supply of consumer goods, public spending is greater than state revenues, there exists a deficit in the external balance of payments, and artificial money is injected into the money supply.

In Israel, excessive deficit government spending coupled with high taxes and soaring energy costs give rise to a uniquely accelerated spiral in the cost of living index. The *Australian Jewish Times* of July 3, 1981 cites the following percent increases in prices this year: sugar up 256% bread up 177%, eggs up 204%, poultry up 172%, and alcoholic beverages went up 190%.

The Israelis do not cut down on armaments expenditures or nuclear programmes to meet social and economic commitments instead. The mass of the Zionists are in fact in favour of militarism and increased "war effort" spending. The economic state is tilted in favour of guaranteeing the necessary force with which to settle "Judea and Sāmaria" (the Biblical names for the occupied West Bank of the Jordan River).

BEGIN'S WAR BUDGET

A deeper look into the nature of Israeli government spending shows that in fact approximately 20% of Begin's budget is for carrying out his aggressive military plans. Begin's "war budget" then is directly accountable for Israel's deficit in its balance of payments to foreign countries. This debt has been known to be the "highest in the world at U.S. $ 3,200 per inhabitant" according to the *United States Congressional Report* of June 13, 1979, page H 4493. The Beirut newspaper *L'Orient-Le-Jour* of May 15 1981 further elucidates that as of the Zionist regime's latest financial report for the economic year ending March 31, 1981 the external debt had risen to U.S. $ 5,647 per inhabitant. The debt consists primarily of long-term loans granted by the United States for the finance of U.S.-supplied war machinery.

Thus the prime and readily identifiable cause of inflation is the Zionist war budget. However, the Israeli campaign for the June 30, 1981 prime ministerial elections still managed to sedate public dissatisfaction at the prevalant economic conditions with a dose of "electioneering economics". To alleviate the effect of inflation with short-term solutions, whose express target was to gain votes and favouritism, Begin's government reduced taxes on luxury Commodities and speeded up wage increases. The Peres forum meanwhile countered with promises to emphasize productivity and growth of the private sector and to implement price freezes. The Peres promise for real growth in the private sector was "truly grand" since Israel has not realized any increase in Gross National Product "for the past four years" (*The Times,* June 21, 1981).

SOCIOECONOMIC IMPACT ON THE POPULATION

The socioeconomic impact on the Zionist populace would seem to be unbearable and a primary cause of dissent and continual strikes. In fact strikes in Israel are very short-lived because the people under the Zionist regime have grown accustomed to this hyper-inflationary state of affairs and manage to live with it. They have adopted an "earn and spend" policy in order to avoid confronting near limitless price increases with finite reserves of rapidly devaluing currency.

The effect on the "aliya" or "going up" (to Israel) is negative, while that on the "yerida" or "going down" (away from Israel) is stimulated. This fact

Devaluating Israeli Shakel did not solve the economic problems

concerns the Zionist authorities most as they greatly depend on the influx of incoming Jewish settlers to continue their expansionist policies and maintain the steady stream of military recruitments.

Palestinian Arabs Continue to Pay Dearly

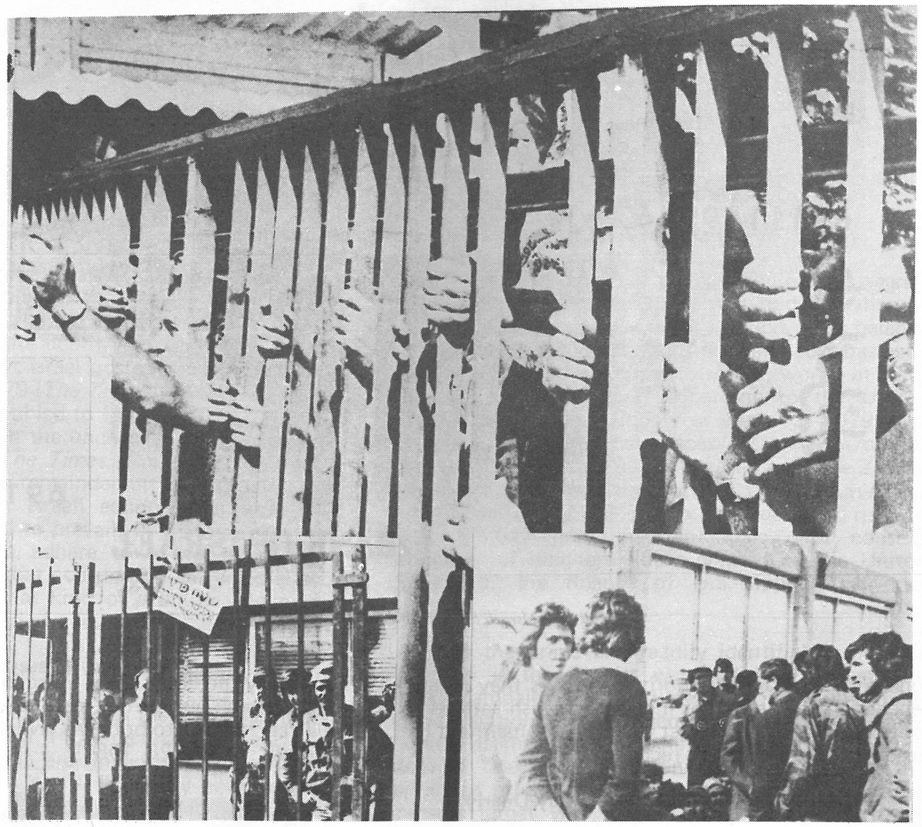
– The economic squeeze is doubly felt by the Arabs living under the Zionist occupation. It is well known that their civil as well as social programmes suffer from a lack of funds. The Zionists try further to inhibit any attempts by the Arabs of the occupied territories to maintain any form of self-determination vis-à-vis civil programmes. A case in point is the city of Bethlehem which received a budget equal to U.S. $ 12,000 from the Zionist authorities last year (Beirut, *Al-Safir* August 28, 1981). One may imagine that a city as important as Behlehem could not very well keep up one or two streets on such a budget, much less maintain such vital civil necessities as the sewage system, the electrical network, salaries for employees and many other items of importance like schools and clinics. During the same period on the other hand, Bethlehem's representative office in the Jordanian capital, Amman, managed to raise one million U.S. dollars for the city *(Al-Safir,* August 28, 1981).

Not only have the Palestinians paid dearly with their land for the questionable re-creation of "Biblical Israel", they also continue to bear much of the cost of the serious economic malfunctions in the overtly militaristic Zionist regime. The brunt of the economic pressure will be more greatly felt, in the very near future, by the Palestinians living in occupied Palestine as the Israeli authorities have now started to cut off all Arab funding to both the civil and business sectors (*Al-Safir,* August 28, 1981).

Workers' strikes spread everywhere in Israel

The fifty-first State of the United States

Israel enjoys a unique status as an undeclared fifty-first state of the United States of America. The heavy reliance of the Israeli economy on U.S. aid is the unquestionable factor which keeps Israel's economy above water. This situation has adversely



Unemployment rate is increasing steadily

affected the natural balance prevailing in the immediate region and its economics. It also hampers the possibilities for peace. Whereas if the Zionists, who insist that they are fulfilling God's word through "aliya", properly understood the history of the region and its peoples they would not have embarked on their expansionist settler policies.

The construction of new settlements, the absence of good neighbourly trade relations, the lack of security and the non-existence of peace in the region, all are factors that adversely affect the Israeli economy. Moreover, the present sectarian divisions in Israel between the Ashkenazi (European Jews) and the Oriental Sephardim, who hold the majority of low income jobs, will be more acutely felt due to the widening economic rift between the two groups.

No Way out without a solution to the Palestinian problem

No austerity or prosperity programme, nor any other face-lifting operations by the Begin or any other Zionist government,will ever solve the deadlock of the Zionist economy. There will be neither peace nor welfare for both the Jews and the Arabs living in Palestine, unless the basic errors of Zionist expansionism, aggression and sectarianism are altogether removed. Ending the occupation and racist domination, and realizing self-determination for the Palestinian people and their basic national rights, including their right to statehood, these are the keys for stability in the area and for economic betterment. Otherwise no economic solution and no peace shall bless the Holy Land as long as the racist Zionist entity refuses to recognize the human and national rights of the native people whom they so violently and mercilessly sentenced to "life" as refugees in distant lands.

ISRAEL'S ARMS SALES TO LATIN AMERICA

The Israeli arms industry is older than the state itself. One can trace its beginnings to the small underground workshops that, before and during the 1948 war, manufactured and repaired various types of light arms, ammunition, light aircraft armoured cars and many types of military hardware used in the initial conquest of Palestine and the eviction of more than a million of its Arab population.

These workshops were incorporated after Israel's creation into the military concerns. The Israeli plants concentrated initially on the production of small arms, mainly Uzi submachine guns and ammunition, and on the upkeep of the weapons that Israel bought from other countries, after the 1967 war. But to some extent before that, Israel decided to channel its resources into the development of original weapons systems or obtaining the necessary data to build weapons systems developed by other countries.

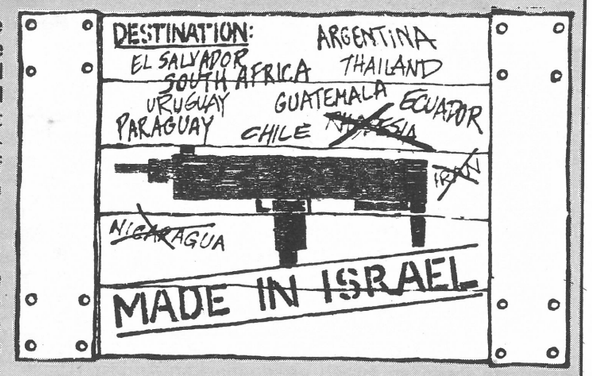
The Kfir plane, for example, is a pirated version of the French Mirage 2000 (with a U.S. engine). The Galil gun is an improved copy of the Russian AK47. Kelashnikov. Most of Israel's missilis use pirated U.S. technology, while some of U.S. naval systems are pirated from British designs. Israel now designs and constructs a wide range of weapons.

It makes small arms, mortars, air-to-air, sea-to-sea and surface-to-surface missilies which can be altered to accomodate nuclear war heads, armoured personnel carriers, gun and torpedo boats, Kfir combat planes and Merkava tanks.

Such a large arms industry cannot survive on local consumption, and since Israel cannot compete with U.S. and European manufacturers in the so-called legitimate arms market, it had to sell its weapons to those states which found it difficult to buy arms from the other manufacturers. These states are mostly headed by the brutal and reactionary regimes in the world.

El Salvador

The present regime in El Salvador holds on to power through the organised terror of its army and gangs of murderers who carry out massacres. According to the Stockholm Institute for peace studies, and opposition sources in El Salvador, Israel has been sending military experts and advisors to aid the regime.



Guatemala

The Guatemalan regime is infamous for comletely destroying demonstrating students as its method of social control. Following reports on atrocities, the Carter regime in the U.S. removed discontinued arms shipments to Guatemala. Following the U.S. move the Guatemalan Chief of Staff, accompanied by an Israeli arms dealer, Marcus Katz, arrived in Israel for a visit.

On his return home, he assure his governemnt that its "arsenal will be refilled by Israel" according to foreign sources. International reports reveal that 38 percent of Guatemala's arms imports come from Israel.

Nicaragua

Somoza, semi-feudal dictator of Nicaragua whose regime was toppled in July, 1979, after a long and bloody civil war, was one of Israel's best customers. The full extent of the Israeli deals there only came to light after his fall. According to one Israeli source, Israel supplied Somosa with 98 percent of his military imports and continued to send him arms until the last days before his fall. A series of articles in *Davar* in November 1979 by Nahom Barnia and Josef prial exposed Israel's links with Somoza. The two journalists were more concerned with Israel's image abroad and large commission paid to death dealers.

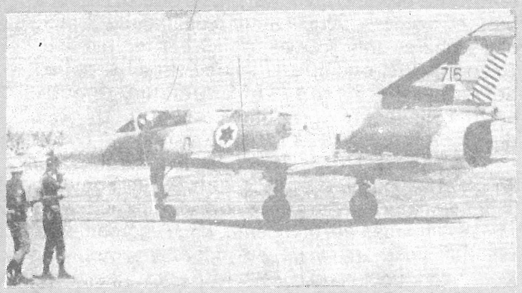
On May 8, 1978, they quoted, a letter from Elhanan Har-Lev, representative of the Israeli army in South America to Yaakov Shapira,

deputy director of the Israeli Ministry of Defense for Military Exports stating that Galil guns were supplied directly to special terror units under the leadership of Somoza's son and are used to kill women and children.

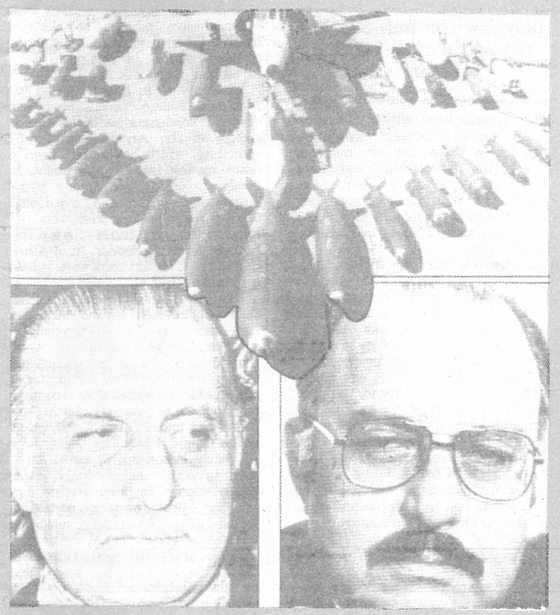
Colombia Seeks Arms in Israel.

The Colombian Defense Minister General Carlos Camacho Leyya was on a visit to Israel on January 16, 1981. He was said to have inspected the production line for manufacture of the Kfir fighter aircraft. Three of Israel's generals were revealed to have some connections with Chile and Argentina. This was in an article in *Ha'aretz* (an Israeli newspaper) an August 10, 1978. The first general was ex-Chief of Staff. General Haim Laskov who visited Buenos Aires In May 1978. He met with the Argentinian Chief of Staff and had talks with him and other high ranking officers. The second general was Mordechai Hod, former commander of the Israeli air force, and the third general was Mordechai Gur, former Chief of Staff who went to Argentina directly from Chile where he had met with the dictator, Pinochet. The article states that these visits resulted in Israel winning arms sales contracts.

A series of articles published in March 1977 in *Ha'aretz* dealt with Israel's arms sales to Ecuador. The usual array of weapons ranging from small arms to Kfir fighters was on offer. A group of Israelis, headed by General Rehava'am Ze'evi, then Prime Minister Rabin's adviser on counter-insurgency warfare, were said to have offered to supply Ecuador with advanced equipment and personnel for counter-insurgency services.



Dictatorships the world allover seeks Kfir in Israel



Israel best selling Kfir-fighter: Viola (left) and Somoza were big time buyers

Israel Now No. 5 in Arms sales

Israel's $1.6 billion arms sale last year (1980) made it the fifth largest military exporter, according to a recent CIA report. Nevertheless Israeli sales are expected to increase in 1981, because of Reagan's relaxation of restrictions on the sale of Kfir fighters to Latin America. The Reagan administration argues that permitting the sales of Israeli weapons with US engines or components helps Israel pay for its American arms — and reduce its huge outstanding debts to the U.S.

On July 8, 1981, the *New York Times,* reported that an international panel selected by UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim concluded that Israel can make nuclear weapons "within a very short time". The panel named in 1979, calculates that Israel may already have obtained weapons-grade material for making several bombs comparable to the bomb dropped on Nagasaki in 1945. The panel estimates that Israel's Dimona reactor, which is not subject to international inspection, could have produced enough weapons-grade plutinum for 10 or 15 atomic bombs.

SEMINARS ON PALESTINIAN QUESTION IN BRITAIN

A seminar on the Palestinian question will be held in Britain on November 18 and 19. Experts on the question from the Arab world, representatives of the PLO and of American and European countries will take part in the seminar.

The discussions in this seminar, organised by the Arab Studies Institute in Britain, will concentrate on a Palestinian working paper relating to the development of the problem and its future.

Another seminar will also be held in Britain at the end of this year. It will be organised by the Arab League office in London. Many Palestinian personalities from Europe and the U.S. will participate in the seminar.

PALESTINIAN RED CRESCENT RECEIVES AID FROM GDR

The Palestinian Red Crescent Society on August 18 received medical and food aid from the German Democratic Republic as a symbol of solidarity with the just struggle of the Palestinian people and to support the PRCS in its services to the victims of the latest Israeli raids.

PRCS President Dr. Fathi Arafat and several members of the Society's Executive Committee received a delegation from the GDR Trade Unions, who made the delivery of the aid package. Dr. Arafat expressed his thanks to the GDR for its humanitarian initiative.

The aeroplane which brought the supplies returned with 16 wounded who will be treated in hospitals in the GDR.

ADEN SUMMIT CONDEMNS CAMP DAVID, ISRAELI ATTACKS SUPPORTS P.L.O.

On August 18, Presidents Ali Nasser Muhammad of Democratic Yemen, Mengistu Haile Mariam of Ethiopia and Mu'ammar al-Qadhafi of Libya denounced the Camp David agreement for its disregard of the Palestinian people's rights and condemned the suspect moves by American imperialists in the region. They were speaking at the conclusion of their summit meeting in Aden. The three leaders also condemned the Israeli attacks on the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples and called upon the Arab and African masses to assume responsibility for confronting the imperialist plans.

NAIROBI CONFERENCE CONDEMNS ISRAELI AGGRESSION

On August 21, the UN conference convened in Nairobi to discuss energy agreed upon two decisions denouncing Israel's project of digging a canal between the Mediterranean and the Dead Sea and its atrocious air raid on the Iraqi nuclear reactor last June. Industrial nations, namely, the ten of the EEC, the USA and Canada, abstained from casting a vote under the pretext that these two decisions are irrelevent.

The conference approved the condemning of Israel digging a canal between the two seas by 62 votes to 32 abstentions with only Israel voting against. 61 countries approved the condemnation of the Israeli air raid on Iraq with 36 abstentions.

The resolution, moreover, hinted at Israeli-South African co-operation in the nuclear field and warned of the risks of nuclear proliferation.

BENGALI PRESIDENT DECLARES SUPPORT FOR P.L.O. ON AQSA MOSQUE DAY

The Bengali President Abdul Sattar has confirmed his country's support for the Palestinian people in their struggle for their right of self-determination and the establishment of an independent state. He was speaking in a special statement delivered on Aqsa Mosque Day.

BLACK AMERICAN JOURNALISTS CONDEMN ISRAELI-AMERICAN RAIDS

A delegation from the Black American Journalists' Union expressed its denunciation of Israeli-American raids against the Palestinian people, especially the destruction caused by the July 17 bombing of Beirut and the results of the latest Palestinian-Israeli war during which a large number of civilians, mostly women and children, were killed in Beirut and south Lebanon.

In a statement released by the head of the delegation, Joanne Mckenna, the Journalists' Union condemned the United States' hostile policy against the Palestinian people and its political, economic and military aid to Israel. The delegation announced its support of the Palestinian people's just struggle to achieve their inalienable rights.

On August 30, the delegation visited the Palestine Red Crescent Society and Palestinian refugee camps. The delegation, which represents the Third World Journalists' Union, arrived in Beirut the same day on an official PLO invitation.

ARAB STUDENT ORGANISATION IN U.S.A. CONFIRMS SUPPORT OF P.L.O.

The Arab Student Organisation in the USA has confirmed its absolute support for the heroic struggle of the Palestinian people under the leadership of the PLO against Zionism and imperialism to attain their rights to self-determination and the establishment of an independent state on their national soil.

In its annual conference, held in Cincinnati University in Ohio, the organisation expressed its solidarity with the PLO Chairman in confrontation of the savage American-Israeli acts of aggression in the Arab region. The conference was attended by Arab student delegations from Europe, Arab countries and other states in the USA.

Short Story

RETURNING TO THE SOURCES

by Yahya Rabah

Abu Marwan Al Maw'ad had been one of the leading personalities of Saffuriya village in Galilee. For 33 years he had lived in the village of Ghaziya in south Lebanon. In the summer of 1979, two important things occurred in Abu Marwan Al Maw'ad's life. The first was that he was retired from his job. He had spent all these years working as a teacher of Palestinian children in the school supervised by the UN Relief and Works Agency in Ghaziya. In recent years he had become the headmaster. Now he was to be retired. The pupils, teachers and local people gave a small party on this occasion, and he performed the handover ceremonies as required in such circumstances, wishing the new headmaster good luck. He took with him only one thing from the school which belonged to him personally: a photograph of his family home in Saffuriya, a framed photograph which he had hung in front of him on the wall of his room in the school. It was a picture of a beautiful, old-fashioned house, with a wide entrance and plenty of windows. In the garden of the house stood two tall cypress trees. Abu Marwan Al Maw'ad used to say that they were about the same age as he was. He took the photograph and hung it in the hallway of his house in Ghaziya.

The other important occurrence in the life of Abu Marwan Al Maw'ad was that permission came to him through the International Red Cross to visit Palestine. News of his impending visit became a great event, not only in his own life, but also for his relatives in Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon and Syria. Many of his relatives and people from his village visited him before he left, some of them asking him to convey greetings, others requesting him to pass by their houses, look at their land or bring them a handful of soil from there, a leaf from a tree or a few grains of wheat.

Abu Marwan Al Maw'ad left. He actually left for Palestine after more than 30 years' absence, and arrived at his village, Saffuriya. This Palestinian was somewhat apprehensive and disconcerted. He was afraid his memory would betray him and details would elude him, or that the memory of the details would betray him and not recognise him. He recited to himself:

By God, this is a lifetime, O people,
A long, long lifetime.

But when he arrived, as he related, he felt his feet guiding him to all the places as if he had left them only moments ago. Things called to him, delight glistened in his eyes... the land... the trees... the narrow stony lanes... that little stream... the windows of his house... the two cypress trees, all the details he remembered as if he had not left them. And they

remembered him, called out to him and rejoiced with him. This is how Abu Marwan Al Maw'ad felt. Even many of the villagers who had remained there recognised him as soon as they saw him, and some of the older people from neighbouring villages also remembered him. After an emotional journey into sentiment, Abu Marwan Al Maw'ad arrived at his family home. He went in through its wide entrance, went up the few marble steps. He knocked on the door. Without feeling tense, just as if he returning to it after a short walk to the fields. A man opened it and came out, asking, "What do you want? Who are you?"

The man seemed as frightened as a mouse, Abu Marwan Al Maw'ad relates. Quietly and firmly, with a calmness at which he himself was astonished, Abu Marwan said to him: "I am Abu Marwan Al Maw'ad, and this is my house." The man did not seem to understand anything at first. But his eyes bulged like the eyes of a frightened mouse. He rushed inside after slamming the door. Then he came out and went back in again, in confusion, several times. He was jabbering unintelligible words, which Abu Marwan Al Maw'ad said were definitely not Hebrew. Then the man began to shout. Several of the neighbours gathered round, and a number of policemen arrived, and took Abu Marwan to the police station. They inspected his papers and found them in order. Then the mayor, not a young man, came, and said: "I know you. You are Abu Marwan Al Maw'ad, the owner of this house. But, forgive me... how can I explain it to you? These... these inhabitants don't know."

Abu Marwan Al Maw'ad returned from his visit. He returned to Ghaziya. The local residents who know him well say something in him changed, that he was like someone making a fresh start. He himself, from the time of the visit until now, tells his neighbours in Ghaziya on every occasion: "The hardship has been made easy. Our country is still there, our homes are still there. We are just guests, passersby, in the countries of exile."

The last news of Abu Marwan Al Maw'ad was that, last July, in the days of the war, and despite the images of danger, destruction and death, he would suddenly burst out laughing, and would laugh and laugh loudly, and then say, still laughing: "Don't you think the inhabitants of the colonial settlements are aware that those who are pelting them with rockets are the owners of the land and the houses?"

NO FREEDOM OF THE PRESS IN U.S.A.

Jim Taylor, a writer for 24 years with the Kansas City, Missouri TV GUIDE, was fired and blacklisted for telling the truth. His book, *Pearl Harbor II*, presents the factual details of Israel's premeditated attack on the U.S. naval vessel the USS Liberty on June 8, 1967. Thirty-four men were killed and 164 men were wounded by the joint Israeli air and naval strike against the Liberty.

Jim Taylor has undertaken, in *Pearl Harbor II*, to explain the unwarranted Israeli attack and the great influence the Zionists had on, the Johnson Administration to effect such a total cover-up of an act of war against the U.S. The American goverment, in turn has struck at Jim Taylor under the pretext of a "threat to national security" through harrassment by federal agents and his blacklisting from his profession. Taylor nearly lost his life on February 28, 1981 in a murder attempt. All this is owing to the publishing of *Pearl Harbor II.*

During the weeks following the attack Israel stated that it would court-martial those who had "mistaken" the Liberty for an Egyptian freighter in their malicious attack. Neither were they court-martialed nor was an indemnity paid to the U.S. government. Everything was "conveniently" swept under the "Capitol Hill carpet" to be uncovered more than a decade later by Taylor.

The attack on the USS Liberty, which made it safely to port in Malta despite 821 hits of varying types, is fitted by Taylor into the sequence of events of the Israeli-Arab war of 1967. It is this very framework which prompted the American cover-up and robbed Jim Taylor of his constitutional guarantees of "freedom of the press" and the right to "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness". At the time of this writing Taylor remains unemployed, blacklisted and discredited after 24 years in journalism and several books, for writing the truth about this U.S. Zionist conspiracy.

Jim Taylor's book may be ordered by mail from the following address:

Mid-East Distributing Co.
P.O. Box 27021
Sunny Slope Station
1121 East 47th St.
Kansas City, Missouri 64110
USA

The price is $14. *Palestine* magazine is not responsible for delivery of the book or otherwise.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Peace in the Middle East

The Israelis will be guilty of a most dangerous form of self-deception if they imagine that their onslaught on Lebanon and the bombing of Iraq will end the Arab/Israel conflict or prevent the Arab countries acquiring the most sophisticated technology. The battle-hardened Palestinian fighters in Lebanon have aroused a great patriotic fervour within the Arab nation which the Israelis would be wise to take seriously, for it is based on the increasing awareness among Arabs that time is on their side.

There is, of course, an alternative to the continuation of this perennial conflict which the Israeli Jews would be wise to consider. The Palestinian shelling of Israeli settlements is the result of Israel's refusal to acknowledge and act upon their legal and moral rights in Palestine. Israel's military adventurism is in support of a political policy geared to the Zionist programme for a "Greater Israel" without Arabs. This has no legal or moral justification and is therefore the major obstacle to a genuine peace settlement.

The Israeli Jews should remember that in Palestine they have occupied an Arab country and evicted or suppressed its indigenous population. Security for both parties in the conflict can come therefore only through a just agreement which seeks to end the anomaly in Palestine of a largely immigrant population denying the indigenous Arab equal rights in his country or even entry into it.

Mick Ashley,
171 Waldegrave Road,
Brighton,
Sussex BN1 6GJ

Dear Sir,

I would like some information on your publication "Palestine" which is printed in English. I would like to subscribe to this. There are a great number of people in the United States who believe in the Palestinian cause and support it. They know of the great injustice done to your people, and are appalled by what Israel is doing now. But the press and media in the United States are so one-sided that we sometimes do not get the truth. That is why I seek more information. May God bless you and all your people.

Thank You,

Yours Truly
Anthony Marin

Beerpide, N.Y.
U.S.A.

Dear Friends:

Thank you very much for the information bulletins which I'm receiving from Lebanon all the time. Mainly from P.L.O. bulletins and from Polish radio and TV, I understand the explosive situation nowadays in occupied Palestine and in Lebanon. For me and for my friends it is nothing new that Israeli arrogance, crime and brutality have no limit. But the struggle and resistance to the terror by heroic fighters of Palestinian forces go on.

Your editorial "Syrian missiles or Israeli arrogance" (Vol. 7 No. 9) in a splendid way shows the Zionist way of thinking. They are blinded by arrogance, they do not understand the real world, they only understand that they want to be like, for example, Hitler during World War II. Many of them tell that they are sticking to the Old Testament. Just now I have read very carefully the Old and New Testament. Nearly each page of the Books of Moses, Joshua, Samuel and of the other Books tells about Palestinians; that Palestinians were the first on Palestinian soil. Even the God Jehova said to the Hebrews through Moses' mouth that there (in Canaan, — the antique name of the land of Palestine) were the cities which were built by Palestinians like Al-Kuds — Jerusalem, Hebron, Nazareth, Bethlehem, Jericho, Gaza, Ashdod, Ashkelon, Beersheba and many others; that in Canaan were groves which were cultivated by Palestinians and I can give many thousand such examples. But everybody who wants to know about it can simply take to his hands the Old Testament as well as the New Testament. As a matter of fact Hebrews were occupying a part of Palestine but not for long, and it is also truth that Palestinians were in Palestine before that occupation, were struggling with the Hebrew occupation and won many battles, captured even the Ark of the Covenant and in the end Palestinians were living in Palestine until now in peace with some thousands of Jews. So Palestinians have the historical, national right and even God's law to live in Palestine because it is their homeland for centuries. That is all told in the Old Testament and the New Testament.

Killer Kahane, Killer Begin and the other Zionist colonists tell that they are sticking to the Old Testament, that Palestine was a land without a nation, and the Jews are a nation and in this way Palestine is the promised land for them. The truth is that Zionists are sticking to nothing with the exception of racism and Nazism and that they believe in nothing with the exception of crime, arrogance and brutality.

Christ was crucified in the past, now Zionists crucify the Palestinians, and say that they help Christians in the Middle East. We know that Christ was resurrected in glory, so also will be the Palestinian resurrection in glory and the world will know about it:

Revolution until victory!
with friendly greeting
Marek Heinricht
Wroctaw — Poland

CHAIRMAN ARAFAT PRESENTS HIS CONDOLENCES TO THE FRENCH PRESIDENT ON THE ASSASSINATION OF FRENCH AMBASSADOR DELAMARE IN BEIRUT

On September 4, an unidentified group of assassins murdered the French ambassador to Lebanon M. Louis Delamare. The Palestinian Revolution was shocked, especially since this act was directed against a friend and a diplomat who devoted himself to serving the cause of peace and stability in Lebanon.

Chairman Arafat sent the following cable of condolences to the French President, M. Francois Mitterrand:

"On behalf of all my brothers, the members of the PLO Executive Committee, and in my own name, I offer Your Excellency my deepest condolences on the loss of our friend the French Ambassador to Lebanon, M. Louis Delamare.

"The criminal evil hands which assassinated him were aiming primarily against the efforts of goodwill undertaken by your Government to lay the foundations of justice and stability in Lebanon and the whole region.

"While condemning this despicable crime, the PLO transmits to your Excellency personally, to your Government, to the friendly French people and to the family of the deceased, its profound grief and heartfelt condolences for this great loss."

Moreover, Chairman Arafat delegated Abu Jaafar, Director of the PLO Political Department, to pay condolences to the French Chargé d'Affaires and members of the French Embassy staff in Lebanon, on the death of the French Ambassador.

For his part Farouk Kaddoumi, Head of the PLO Political Department, sent a cable of condolences to the French Minister for External Relations, Claude Cheysson, on the assassination of Ambassador Louis Delamare.

The cable said that the killing of M. Delamare, who carried with him the noble tradition of the French people in defending liberty, came as a profound shock to all those who desire freedom and abhor such ugly crimes.

Kaddoumi addressed his condolences to Cheysson, the Ambassador's family, and the friendly French people as a whole.

المؤتمر العالمي للتضامن مع الشعبين اللبناني والفلسطيني

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE LEBANESE AND THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE.

LA CONFERENCE INTERNATIONALE DE SOLIDARITE AVEC LES PEUPLES LIBANAIS ET PALESTINIEN.

BEIRUT, 10-12 SEP , 1981.

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Palestine

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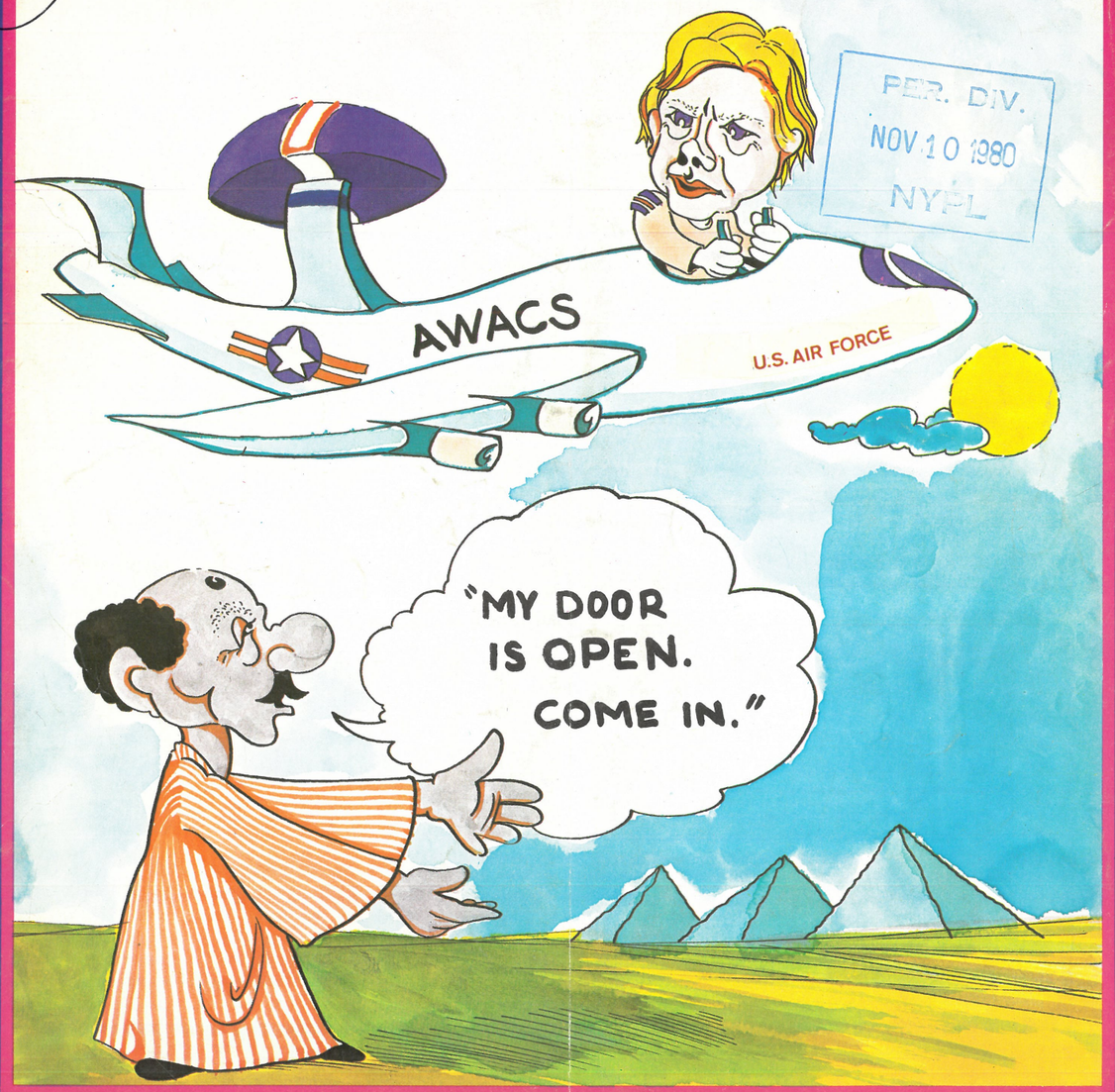
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